

Green paper endorses duty to public-service television

BBC's future left open but changes must come

□ A more precise definition of public service broadcasting is said to be essential before the BBC's future can be decided

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE green paper on the future of the BBC is a cautious document, long on questions but short on answers. Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, says that the BBC must "be ready to contemplate radical changes", but little credence is given to any such proposals.

Although Mr Brooke gives his assurance that the BBC should continue "as a major public-service broadcasting organisation", the green paper makes clear that the BBC cannot continue as if there had been no rapid technological change or a proliferation of commercial channels.

The green paper, which broadly supports continuation of the licence fee — as "no one has devised an obviously better system" — places particular emphasis on the need for efficiency. "The BBC needs to give value for money and to demonstrate that it is doing so. It needs to improve the efficiency of its activities each year, while maintaining the quality of its programmes," it says. The BBC must also devise ways to measure efficiency, the quality of service it provides, audience reactions, and financial performance.

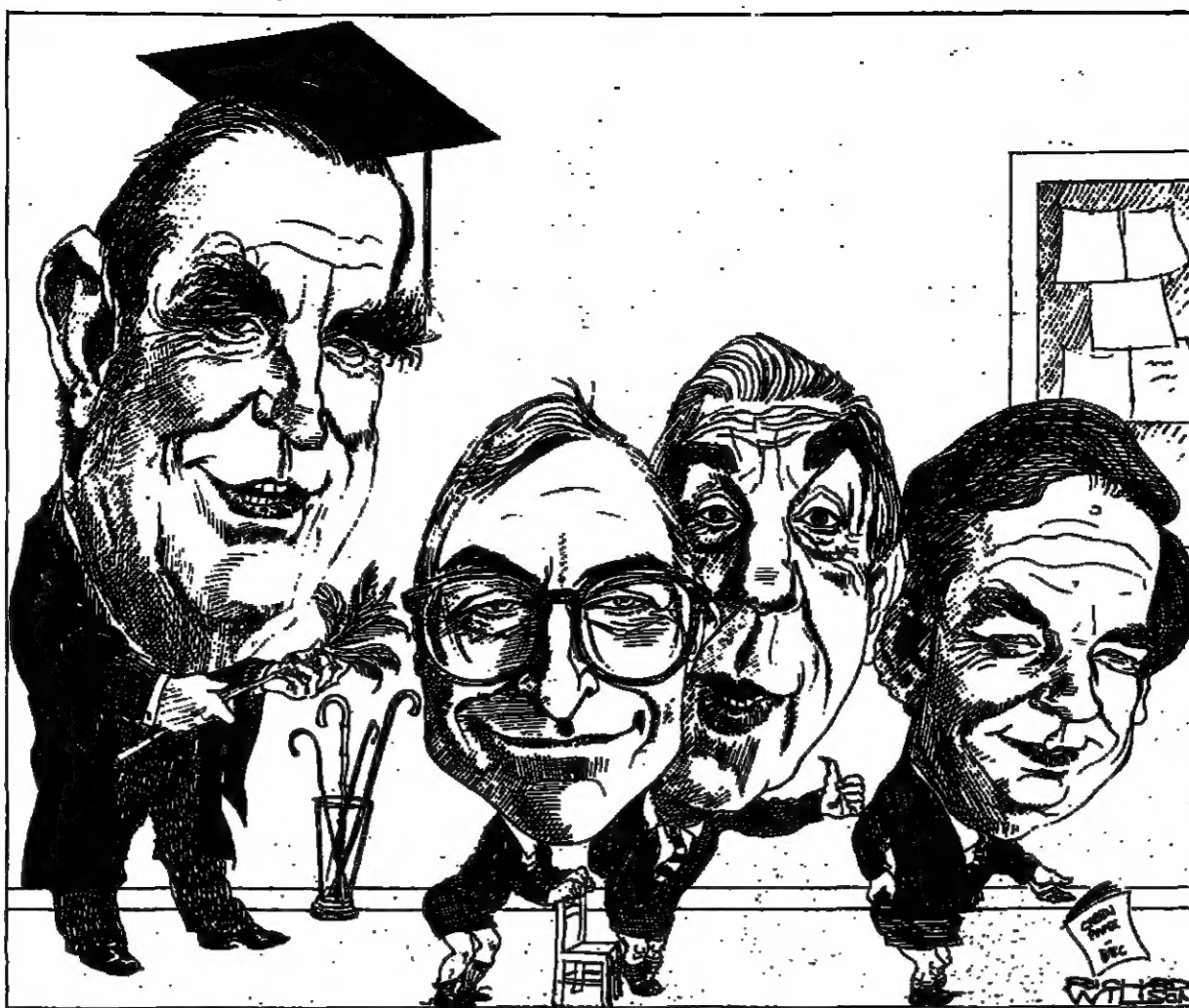
"It is essential for the BBC to keep in close touch with the audience for its services ... New measures for audience reaction are likely to be needed. These could look at the purpose of individual programmes, the likely audience and the degree of audience appreciation."

But later in the document Mr Brooke concedes that such specified quotas and targets might introduce "a mechanistic approach without enhancing programme quality". It also points out that closer

regulation "might open up more opportunities for political influence or control, so encroaching on the BBC's independence". Moreover, there was a danger that such a new framework could be too rigid to allow for change, leading to "a dull and timorous broadcasting service which did not adapt, experiment and provoke controversy".

Melvyn Bragg's controversial call for an "arts council of the airwaves", which would issue licence fee money to commercial channels as well as the BBC, is given a lukewarm response. The green paper merely notes the idea, with one serious reservation: "Such a council would hold the purse-strings to stable resources and it would clearly be unacceptable if this power led to the imposition of a single cultural or editorial viewpoint."

The green paper



emphasises that the government supports the idea of public-service broadcasting, it argues that the original justification for it — that a small number of channels should be used for the benefit of the public as a whole — no longer applies given the proliferation of competing services.

"One option is that public

service broadcasting should concentrate on the types of programmes which would not be provided by commercial broadcasters. Others believe that public-service broadcasting consists of more than the provision of particular programmes, mainly for minority audiences. They wish to sustain the values developed by successive generations ...

They regard public service broadcasting as an approach to broadcasting, which influences the choice of programme subjects, and how programmes are made and scheduled, as well as the scope of the services. Others believe that public-service broadcasters should compete in providing every form of broadcasting," it said.

The green paper raises the possibility that with more channels there will be less need for a single service to cater for everyone. "Each television channel or radio station could concentrate on a single type of programme, likely to appeal to people of a particular age group or with particular tastes or interests." However, in a later passage it appears to

throw some cold water on the "narrowcasting" approach: "If the aim is to encourage people to widen their interests, this is less likely to be achieved by narrowing the range of programmes and reducing the number of popular programmes ..."

It calls for "careful consideration rather than slogans or nostalgia" in the public debate about the BBC's public-service remit. The BBC should sustain a sense of national identity and extend diversity at a time when programmes are increasingly produced by multi-national companies.

It said "some further rationalisation may be necessary" in radio, calling into question the futures of Radio 1 and 2. "Given the variety of other radio services it is arguable that BBC radio should no longer try to broadcast such a wide range of programmes, with the aim that everyone should find something of interest ... If the BBC is not expected to broadcast popular music, then it might have three national radio channels rather than five ... Another possibility would be for the BBC to lose its local radio stations."

In contrast, however, it argues that the advent of digital compression technologies could provide frequencies for more BBC services, and even moots the possibility of the BBC expanding into satellite. It also raises the possibility of privatising the BBC's transmission network.

While it supports continuation of the licence fee, it makes it clear that the present system could be adapted to reduce evasion (now at 8 per cent) and let the poor and elderly pay less. "Direct" taxation to fund the BBC could threaten the corporation's editorial independence by making it dependent on the public spending round each year.

Advertising is rejected on the grounds that it would not provide the £1,000 million needed to finance BBC1 and BBC2 or the £140 million to fund radio. Advertising on the BBC would also jeopardise the financial stability of the ITV companies. Sponsorship could also diminish the BBC's editorial independence.

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MPs seek wide public discussion

By JONATHAN PRYNN

PARLIAMENTARY reaction to the consultation document on the BBC was generally muted, reflecting the lack of clear guidance on government policy included in the green paper. Most speakers in the debate on the Commons statement welcomed its publication and the discussions that will follow. David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, called for a "full-hearted" public debate on the issues raised.

Several MPs pressed Mr Brooke on the future of the licence fee. Robert Maclennan, the Liberal Democrat broadcasting spokesman, said: "The financial independence of the BBC is the basis of its role as a defender of free speech and of the nation talking unto itself."

Ann Clwyd, the shadow heritage secretary, said the Labour party would guarantee the licence fee as the basis of funding to the BBC and would index-link the fee for at least ten years.

Mr Brooke said the potential options for future BBC funding were laid out in the discussion paper, but added that of all the options examined, "so far none looks obviously better than the licence fee".

There were few calls for an abolition of the licence fee from the Conservative benches. However, Teresa Gorman said people who wanted to watch only commercial television should not have to pay the EBO fee.



Maclennan: free speech relies on independence

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

A proud day for gerbils everywhere

here are people whose position in life is that of the interjection, without influence on the sentence. — Kierkegaard

As interjections go, Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) is an Oh!, a "Go to hell!", or an "Aaargh!". This Mr Angry of the Tory back benches is able, from a standing start, to go puce in the face, instantly, on any subject you care to mention. In a panel game in which contestants are required to lose their temper for 60 seconds (without hesitation, repetition or deviation) on quite random topics, Winterton's success could be guaranteed. Only one other Tory MP can do this.

To him we shall return. But first to Winterton: he sprang up during defence questions and stood like a human exclamation mark, daring Madam Speaker not to call him. She did.

His own regiment was to disappear in a merger "The Fourteenth, Twentieth King's Hussars," he declared, reddening already, "are to be merged with the Royal Hussars, to become the King's Royal Hussars." Fair enough, we thought ... "the supreme Cavalry Regiment!" he yelled. We were disinclined to quarrel.

"Are you prepared to give an assurance" (he was glaring at Malcolm Rifkind, the secretary of state) "that the new regiment will be able to have a regimental band?" He turned to include the whole House in his glare. "A regiment feels the loss of a band!" Losing a band, he roared, risked losing medical cover "because, as many in this House know, bands double up as medics."

Images of tuba players scattering their musical scores to the winds as they rushed to administer the kiss of life, tumbled through our minds as Winterton belaboured.

Having reached the required shade of puce, he sat down suddenly, Mr Rifkind tried to calm him, remarking that he was fully conscious of all this.

The next question was about amphibious helicopter carriers and not nearly as interesting to MPs, as you knew where you were with a brass band.

You know where you are with David Evans (C, Welwyn, Hatfield). If, in the apoplexy stakes, Winterton holds the Tory backbench crown, Evans represents his main challenger. Their styles are different. A Winterton rant is a small but perfect dramatic perfor-

mance: it builds to its climax and has an internal logic. An Evans outburst is a sudden, unprompted burst of sound, a sort of primeval scream. In no sense is it an argument but on sheer decibels it wins hands-down.

I think Mr Evans's subject at PM's questions was immigration. At a volume and in accents which render Alf Garnett effete, and gesturing violently at the Opposition benches, Evans could be heard from as far away as Karachi shouting "... We know that lot! They couldn't care less. Seven hundred, seven thousand, seventy thousand! Let them all in — that's what they say!"

Answer that, Tony Newton had to. In the PM's absence, Newton, the House Leader was standing in. Consistently well-regarded for his departmental skills, Newton's Achilles' heel has always been his dispatch box performance.

Not so much one of nature's lions as one of her gerbils, his furrowed brow, his halting replies have been the object of affectionate amusement among his colleagues.

Yesterday changed all that. Mr Newton, who represents Braintree, Essex, had looked into his shaving glass that morning and declared: "From this day forward, Tony, you are a gerbil no longer. You are a fighter, a killer, a parliamentary terrier. Go forth and conquer!" And he had stepped on to his Essex commuter train, bound for Fenchurch Street, with a new spring in his step.

And it worked. First he trapped the Opposition, apologising for the PM's absence, pausing after "away attending a lunch ...", waiting for the jeers, then adding that John Smith was at the lunch.

To cheers, he welcomed a question from his Basildon colleague, David Amess, with a glowing tribute to Essex. He stormed at Labour's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, that her party were in chaos and confusion: he heaped praises on the award-winning British Nissan Micra; and hit Labour's Nick Raynsford on the head with one of Raynsford's own quotes about the Labour party "sleepwalking into oblivion".

Gerbils everywhere must have felt proud. Waving away Evans with polite dispatch, this was no household pet. A star had been born. This was a killer-gerbil.

BBC licence fee stays

Continued from page 1
sultation the government will avoid an ITV-style massacre," he said.

In one of the many fudges in the paper, the government said the governors "could be given a different and clearer remit" supervising the BBC rather than managing it. Or they could be regulators without any responsibility for BBC policy-making.

But Melvyn Bragg's call for an "arts council of the airwaves", to mete out licence money to commercial broadcasters, won guarded support last night from the Community Radio Association.

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The acceptable face of broadcasting

PETER Brooke has made Commons statements this week on two internationally known British institutions — one controversial and the other widely respected. After dealing with the monarchy and the Windsor castle fire on Monday, he yesterday turned to the respected one, the BBC.

The tone of the public debate on the BBC has changed out of all recognition in the past three years. Long gone are the days of confrontation and talk of breaking-up the corporation. During yesterday's exchanges only a couple of Tory MPs attacked the licence fee. But, in general, most MPs, including Mr Brooke himself several times, expressed admiration for the BBC's work.

That partly reflects an ebbing of Thatcherite zeal in favour of consensus politics which Mr Brooke epitomises. The Thatcherites on the Tory backbenches clearly felt that the green paper did not go far enough. David Mellor, who was responsible for broadcasting in several ministerial posts, yesterday welcomed

HIDDEN ON POLITICS

the "full-hearted" public consultation promised by his successor, in contrast to the "rather more cloistered consideration" of the past. This was presumably a reference to the narrow debate leading up to the changes in the independent franchises.

The decline in the volume of Tory criticism of the BBC may also reflect a belated respect for its news coverage at a time when the government has come under such unremitting fire from its traditional allies in the press.

But, as significant as the shifts in the political mood are the substantial changes made by the BBC itself in the past few years — in part, in anticipation of the government's own review. More use of independent producers, the introduction of a form of internal market via producer choice and a value for money drive have all produced an upheaval in the running of the BBC. This has met many of the previous objections. The

extent of the changes in the BBC is neither appreciated nor understood by all. Just as some free market Tory MPs still believe that Broadcasting House is full of left-wingers eager to subvert the government, so some Labour members see the whole Reithian legacy of public service broadcasting under threat from fanatical Tory privatisers.

In a lengthy and muddled intervention, Ann Clwyd, the shadow national heritage secretary, failed to acknowledge the changes that have occurred in the BBC. In presenting Labour as the defender of public service broadcasting, she begged questions about how the BBC should alter. Having expended much effort on building bridges with ministers, the BBC perhaps now needs to spend time on educating the opposition.

Mr Brooke's statement, of course, begs many central questions about the future of the corporation. But, by saying he saw no obvious im-

provement on the licence fee, Mr Brooke limited the scope for change by moving whole-sale to payment by subscription or sponsored programmes.

The radicals, particularly in the Downing Street Policy Unit, did achieve a victory of sorts by securing the inclusion of the proposals that money from the licence fee could go to a Public Service Broadcasting Council rather than directly to the BBC. The council would then share out funds to the BBC and other broadcasters to pay for particularly types of programmes. This idea had been resisted during the Mellor months, and Mr Brooke sounded unenthusiastic.

The prospect, as will be clear from the BBC's own proposals, is for further changes of the type already under way. Unlike the monarchy, the BBC is showing it appreciates how to practise successful conservatism — when to make changes in order to preserve the essence.

PETER RIDDELL



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MADE IN MEDDLESLEY ROAD, CORSEY

The Queen tells City audience: '1992 is not a year I shall look back on with undiluted pleasure'



Lowlights of a royal year: the damage to Windsor Castle, right, has been the latest of the Queen's trials, which have included continued speculation about the relationships between the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and John Bryan, and Commander Timothy Laurence, left, and the Princess Royal

Monarchy must expect criticism and scrutiny

HERE is the text of the Queen's speech at Guildhall yesterday:

This great hall has provided me with some of the most memorable events of my life. The hospitality of the City of London is famous around the world, but nowhere is it more appreciated than among the members of my family.

I am deeply grateful that you, my Lord Mayor, and the corporation, have seen fit to mark the fortieth anniversary of my accession with this splendid lunch, and by giving me a picture which I will greatly cherish.

Thank you also for inviting representatives of so many organisations with which I and my family have special connections, in some cases stretching back over several generations. To use an expression more common north of the border, this is a real "gathering of the clans".

1992 is not a year I shall look back on with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to

be an "annus horribilis". I suspect that I am not alone in thinking it so. Indeed, I suspect that there are very few people or institutions unaffected by these last months of worldwide turmoil and uncertainty. This generosity and whole-hearted kindness of the corporation of the City of London is welcome at any time but, at this particular moment, in the aftermath of Friday's tragedy at Windsor, it is especially so.

And, after this last weekend, we appreciate all the more what has been set before us today. Years of experience, however, have made us a bit more canny than the lady — less well-versed than us in the splendours of City hospitality — who, when she was offered a balloon glass for her brandy, asked for "only half a glass, please".

It is possible to have too much of a good thing. A well-meaning bishop was obviously doing his best when he told Queen Victoria: "Ma'am, we cannot pray too often, nor too

1992 has been an *annus horribilis* for the Queen, but she is sure history will treat her more kindly than some commentators

fervently, for the royal family." The Queen's reply was: "Too fervently, not too often, yes." I, like Queen Victoria, have always been a believer in that old maxim "moderation in all things".

Sometimes wonder how future generations will judge the events of this tumultuous year. I dare say that history will take a slightly more moderate view than that of some contemporary commentators. Distance is well known to lend enchantment, even to the less attractive views.

After all, it has the inestimable advantage of hindsight. But it can also lend an extra dimension to judgment, giving it a leavening of moderation and compassion — even of wisdom — that is sometimes lacking in the reactions of those whose task it is in life to offer instant opinions on all

things great and small. No section of the community has all the virtues, neither does any have all the vices. I am quite sure that most people try to do their jobs as best they can, even if the result is not always entirely successful. He who has never failed to reach perfection has a right to be the harshest critic.

There can be no doubt, of course, that criticism is good for people and institutions that are part of public life. No institution — City, monarchy, whatever — should expect to be free from the scrutiny of those who give it their loyalty and support, not to mention those who don't.

But we are all part of the same fabric of our national society and that scrutiny, by one part of another, can be just as effective if it is made with a touch of gentleness, good humour and understanding. This sort of questioning can also act, and it should do so, as an effective engine for change. The City is a good example of the way the process of change can be incorporated into the stability and continuity of a great institution.

I particularly admire, my Lord Mayor, the way in which the City has adapted so nimbly to what the prayer book calls "the changes and chances of this mortal life". You have set an example of how it is possible to remain effective and dynamic without losing those indefinable qualities of style and character. We only

have to look around this great hall to see the truth of that.

Forty years is quite a long time. I am glad to have had the chance to witness, and to take part in, many dramatic changes in life in this country. But I am glad to say that the magnificent standard of hospitality given on so many occasions to the sovereign by the Lord Mayor of London has not changed at all. It is an outward symbol of one other unchanging factor which I value above all: the loyalty

given to me and my family by so many people in this country, and the Commonwealth, throughout my reign.

You, my Lord Mayor, and all those whose prayers — fervent, I hope, but not too frequent — have sustained me through all these years, are friends indeed. Prince Philip and I give you all, wherever you may be, our most humble thanks.

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A diary of woe for royal family

The *annus horribilis* of the Queen has been unrelenting (Alan Hamilton writes).

February: Australian prime minister Paul Keating makes republican remarks during the Queen's visit. March: the Palace confirms that the Duke and Duchess of York are to separate. The Queen's press secretary apologises for remarks to a reporter about the duchess.

March: Earl Spencer, father of the Princess of Wales, dies, and observers note that the prince spends the minimum possible time at the funeral, fueling speculation of marriage difficulties. April: the Princess Royal files for divorce from Captain Mark Phillips.

June: Andrew Morton publishes his book *Diana: Her True Story*, in which he claims the princess is so unhappy that she has attempted suicide six times.

July: several backbench MPs, learning that the Queen has applied for a £300,000 grant to build a deer fence at Balmoral, demand that her exemption from income tax be ended, and that Civil List payments to all but her immediate family be stopped.

August: the *Daily Mirror*, quickly followed by other tabloids, publishes topless photographs of the Duchess of York on holiday in France with an American friend, John Bryan. September: The *Sun* publishes a transcript of what it claims to be an intimate telephone conversation between the Princess of Wales and a male friend, James Gilbey.

October: a state visit to Germany is marred by a minor anti-war demonstration in Dresden, in which two eggs are thrown at the Queen's car, and miss.

November: on an official visit to Korea, the Prince and Princess of Wales are widely condemned for looking so miserable in each other's company.

November: fire destroys a section of Windsor Castle.

Reactions mixed on Guildhall speech

Continued from page 1

wealth throughout my reign. You, my Lord Mayor, and all those whose prayers — fervent, I hope, but not too frequent — have sustained me through all these years, are friends indeed."

The speech received a mixed reception away from Guildhall. John Smith, the Labour leader, said: "She is entitled to defend herself, and she did it rather wittily and rather charmingly." Lord St John of Fawley, a staunch supporter of the monarchy, described it as "wonderful — just the right sort of speech and the right sort of tone."

But Ann Clwyd, opposition heritage spokeswoman, seized the occasion to repeat a call for the Queen to pay taxes. "We know that she is one of the wealthiest people in the country, if not the wealthiest. I think the swing of public opinion now in this direction is very strong indeed."

Other Labour voices were equally unsympathetic. Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, said that he was disappointed the Queen had not announced that she was going to pay back taxes. His colleague Tony Banks said: "There is no such thing as a bad year for the Queen, by definition. Anyone who is so much a part of the dependency culture as she is could at least smile a bit more. I know people in my constituency who can genuinely say it has been a bad year. I don't believe she has had her house repossessed."

In a small coda to a horrible year, it was announced that Andrew Morton, the royal author, had won a "Scoop of the Year" award from fellow journalists who voted his disclosures the best news story of 1992.

Mr Morton defended his role as being "just the messenger". He said as he collected his award at the Stationers' Hall in London: "I have merely chronicled what was going on inside the House of Windsor."

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Duke to command first ship

THE Duke of York is to take command of a Royal Navy warship for the first time, it was announced yesterday. He will assume command of the minehunter HMS *Cottesmore* next April.

The duke, a lieutenant commander, is at present studying at the Army Staff College, at Camberley, Surrey, graduating next month.

The Hunt Class vessels, constructed from glass reinforced plastic, are the world's

most advanced mine counter-measure vessels. HMS *Cottesmore*, which has a company of 40 men, is part of the Second MCM Squadron based in Portsmouth. Sister vessels were in service during the Gulf war.

The appointment follows tradition: the Prince of Wales commanded the minesweeper HMS *Bronington* during his naval service. A minehunter provides early experience of command. Larger warships

such as frigates and destroyers are usually commanded by officers with the rank of commander.

The duke's career since he entered Dartmouth as a midshipman in 1979 has so far centred on helicopter flying. During the Falklands conflict he served aboard the carrier *Invincible*, flying Sea Kings. Naval sources said the command of *Cottesmore* does not necessarily mean the end of his flying career.

Inmates cause £1 m damage in jail riot

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

MORE than 100 prisoners went on the rampage at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk yesterday in a protest sparked by the capture of two men trying to abscond from the jail, which has the worst escape record in Britain.

An enquiry into the six-hour disturbance, which caused up to £1 million damage, was

launched by the Home Office. By last night more than 60 inmates had been taken to other prisons.

Highpoint has earned the local nickname of Hi-Di-Highpoint for its easy-going regime. Fifty prisoners have escaped from the category C former RAF camp near Haverhill in three years including 21 this year.

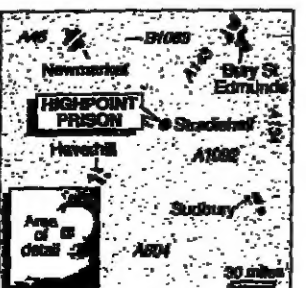
Prisoners in two units of the north wing rioted after seeing in the search lights the capture of the second of two men in the grounds at 4.30am. They smashed furniture and fittings throughout one unit, leaving it under several inches of water, and severely damaged another.

A night patrolman, who was forced to lock himself in an office to escape the mob, was rescued by officers through a fire door. Up to 100 officers in riot gear from six other prisons in the region were drafted in to restore control, backed by police reinforcements. No one was hurt in the disturbance.

Last night the prison for 700 men was described as quiet. Ron Curtis, the gover-

nor, said: "Prisoners in one of the units, seeing the arrest of the second man, reacted and started to smash fittings. This was copied by prisoners in a second unit."

"As a result of the vandalism one unit is now uninhabitable and won't be put right for



several weeks. The damage has been considerable. We are moving a number of prisoners out and trying to identify the ring leaders to take appropriate action against them."

"The atmosphere is quiet but normal routines have not been established." He said prisoners in one of the units had given up passive-

ly at breakfast time while the other was not brought under control by officers who moved in until mid-morning.

Mr Curtis defended security, saying that staff had detained the two escapees and that the issue of how they came to be loose in the grounds at night will be examined by the Home Office enquiry. Nothing had occurred recently to allow any expectation of the disturbance.

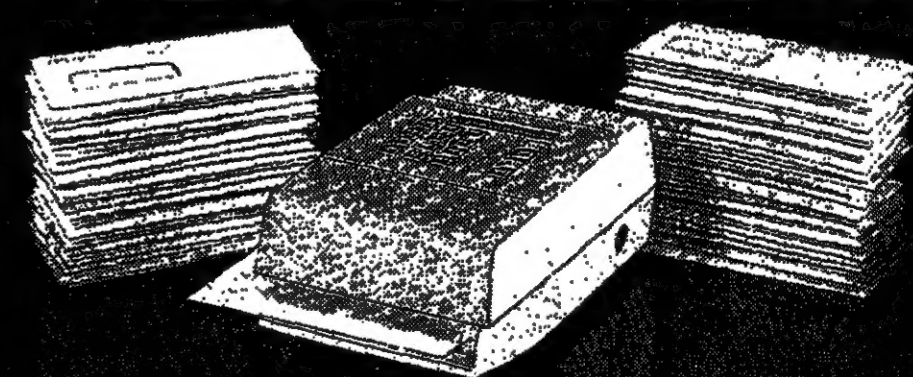
Andy Gossage, of the national executive committee of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "The inmates went for everything that would break."

"For prison officers it was a very traumatic experience." He said that he was concerned at staffing levels at Highpoint, which, he said, was a prime target for government privatisation schemes.

Ian Lawrence, branch chairman of the association, said yesterday: "Despite a history of escapes and minor incidents at Highpoint, we did not expect the reaction we got. It was general, wanton destruction."

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Model awarded £580,000 in Wyman divorce agreement

By Joe Joseph

MANDY Smith, the former schoolgirl-lover-turned wife of Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, will pocket at most £580,000 under an "amicable" divorce settlement agreed yesterday in the High Court. It was rumoured that she was aiming to siphon £5 million from Wyman's reputed £24 million fortune.

The settlement was struck after a seven-day private hearing in London. It puts the fullstop on a paragraph in Wyman's career that seemed unconventional even by the standards of someone who not only boasts about having made love to more than 1,000 women but also to logging the relevant details in his diary, who once wore outfits that would make Vivienne Westwood and Madonna seem dowdy, and who was ranked as one of the world's greatest rock bass guitarists even though he was so unhip that he barely moved more than three inches on stage.

Wyman, 56, and Smith, 22, first met when she was just 13, an age that aroused only the passing interest of the Director

of Public Prosecutions and the undying fascination of the tabloid press. Smaller newspapers trailed her through her "Wyman's child lover" days, through her public courtship with the ageing Stone, through the couple's glamorous rock star wedding in 1989, and through their sorry marriage of less than two years. Once wed, Wyman and Smith were reported to have spent only five nights together.

The settlement consists of a £250,000 home in Muswell Hill, north London, which is



Wyman: met future wife when she was 13

to be transferred to her name, and its contents, with a sum of £130,000, expenses of up to £100,000, and legal costs of £100,000.

"That is agreed to be the limit of his obligations towards her," a joint statement issued by solicitors for both sides said. "The settlement represents a victory for neither side over the other."

Wyman and Smith had already left court, after terms of settlement were announced to Mr Justice Thorpe, the Family Division judge who had heard days of legal argument and evidence. Upending the traditional cartoonist's scene of the wild rock star and the ageing judge who asks what exactly an electric guitar might be, Mr Justice Thorpe is actually a couple of years younger than Wyman, who now spends most of his time gathering up Rolling Stones memorabilia with the devotion of a train spotter, and opening restaurants.

In his conservative dark blue and grey suits, Wyman probably also has less occasion nowadays to wear wigs and fancy gowns than Mr Justice

Thorpe. Smith, a former model, suffered from a wasting illness, and although now no longer skeletal, she still looked pale and thin attending the hearing with her mother and her sister, Nicola.

Solicitors acting for Smith and Wyman said in their statement that "an amicable settlement was reached between Mandy Smith and Bill Wyman in respect of Mandy's financial claims against Bill arising out of their divorce."

"To avoid speculation, it has been agreed, with the approval of the judge who has been hearing the case, to release to the press the terms of the settlement... Both Mandy and Bill, having received legal advice, accept that the above terms are fair in all the circumstances. The settlement represents a victory for neither side over the other."

"Nothing further will be divulged, and indeed nothing further can legally be divulged, by either side about the terms of the settlement or any information disclosed in the course of the legal proceedings which have just been concluded."



All over now: Mandy Smith reputedly wanted £5m

Did Mark Thatcher have arms link?

By Christopher Elliott

FRESH claims that Mark Thatcher may have had links to a £20 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia have been made by a former member of President Reagan's National Security Council staff.

Howard Teicher makes his claims in a *Dispatches* programme on Channel 4 to-night. The programme does not produce documents linking Mr Thatcher with the Saudi deal but dwells on his friendship with Wafic Said, a multi-millionaire businessman who admits he has links with the small civil component of the Al-Yamamah deal. Mr Said strenuously denies ever having any business dealings with Mr Thatcher.

The programme examines deals by British arms companies with Saudi Arabia and Iraq during the period that Baroness Thatcher was prime minister. It also looks at the way in which Mr Thatcher has made his fortune in the last 12 years, a sum estimated at £10 million to £40 million.

The Al-Yamamah deal is the largest single export contract won by Britain. It involved the sale of Tornado and Hawk aircraft and other equipment. When a memo-

randum of understanding was signed in 1985 by Michael Heseltine, as defence secretary, with Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, British Aerospace said 25,000 jobs had been secured.

In the mid-eighties, Mr Teicher was responsible for foreign policy in the Middle East and monitored arms sales around the world. It was his job to co-ordinate the disparate US agencies' policy in a way that would help them win contracts.

In the programme he says he is "convinced" that Mark Thatcher may have had links with the deal. He says Mr Thatcher's name figured in diplomatic dispatches and intelligence reports from the American Embassy in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

Mr Teicher, speaking from his office last night, said: "As a member of the National Security Council staff I would have seen multiple references in a variety of documents over a period of a couple of years."

Attempts to contact Mr Thatcher were unsuccessful last night.

Diary, page 20

Spiro 'knew he was in mortal danger'

Ian Spiro, the Briton found dead in California two weeks ago, after the murder of his wife and three children, knew that he was in mortal danger and told relatives that something had come from the past to haunt him, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ken Quarton, of Toronto, Mrs Spiro's half-brother, told the inquest in Whitehaven, Cumbria, on Mrs Spiro and her children that Mr Spiro, 46, had been receiving disturbing telephone calls and had been upset after his name appeared in a book about Terry Waite and Oliver North. "The way it was written made it seem that he was working for the United States, and that is dangerous in the Arab world. Ian knew he was in mortal danger."

The ashes of Mr Spiro and the bodies of his wife Gail, 41, and their children Sara, 16, Adam, 14, and Deana, 11, will be buried tomorrow in St Catherine's churchyard at Boot, Cumbria. A pathologist confirmed that Mrs Spiro had been shot twice in the head and each of the children shot once. The inquest was adjourned.

Gunmen flee shoot-out

Police and troops were involved in a battle with gunmen believed to have been planning to attack an off-duty soldier near the Irish border yesterday. About 70 shots were fired in the exchange, three miles from Castlederg, co. Tyrone. The gunmen are thought to have fled across the border into co. Donegal. None of the police or soldiers was hurt. At least two gunmen were hiding outside the home of a member of the Royal Irish Regiment when they were confronted by armed police and troops. Three men believed to be from Northern Ireland but with addresses in co. Donegal were arrested later at a house close to the border.

Cruelty to pets rises

More pets are being abandoned and mistreated and fewer people want to take in strays, the RSPCA reports today. Sixty per cent of its 56 animal homes in Britain, many of which depend on local donations, say that it is more difficult this year to raise funds and to find new homes for abandoned dogs and cats. Many report falling sales from the charity's shops and increasing numbers of sick and hungry animals being handed in by owners who say they cannot afford food or vet's bills. In an advertising campaign launched today, the charity urges anyone thinking of giving a pet for Christmas to think again with its slogan: "If you give a damn, don't give a pet."

Parachutist fined



A parachutist yesterday accused magistrates of effectively driving "low-level jumping" "underground" after they bound him over to keep the peace for leaping off Tower Bridge. Russell Powell, left, of northwest London, made his 150ft leap last June. Powell, 24, was fined £50 for infringing Tower Bridge bylaws and ordered to pay £102 compensation by City of London magistrates.

Times writer wins prize

Nigel Hawkes, the science editor of *The Times*, was yesterday awarded the British Nutrition Foundation Prize, an award designed to recognise work of outstanding merit in food, nutrition and health. The award, sponsored by British Sugar, is worth £1,000 and is awarded annually to nutrition scientists or those who communicate the results of their work. Dr Elsie Widdowson, Honorary President of the foundation, presented the award at its annual lunch at the Royal College of Physicians.

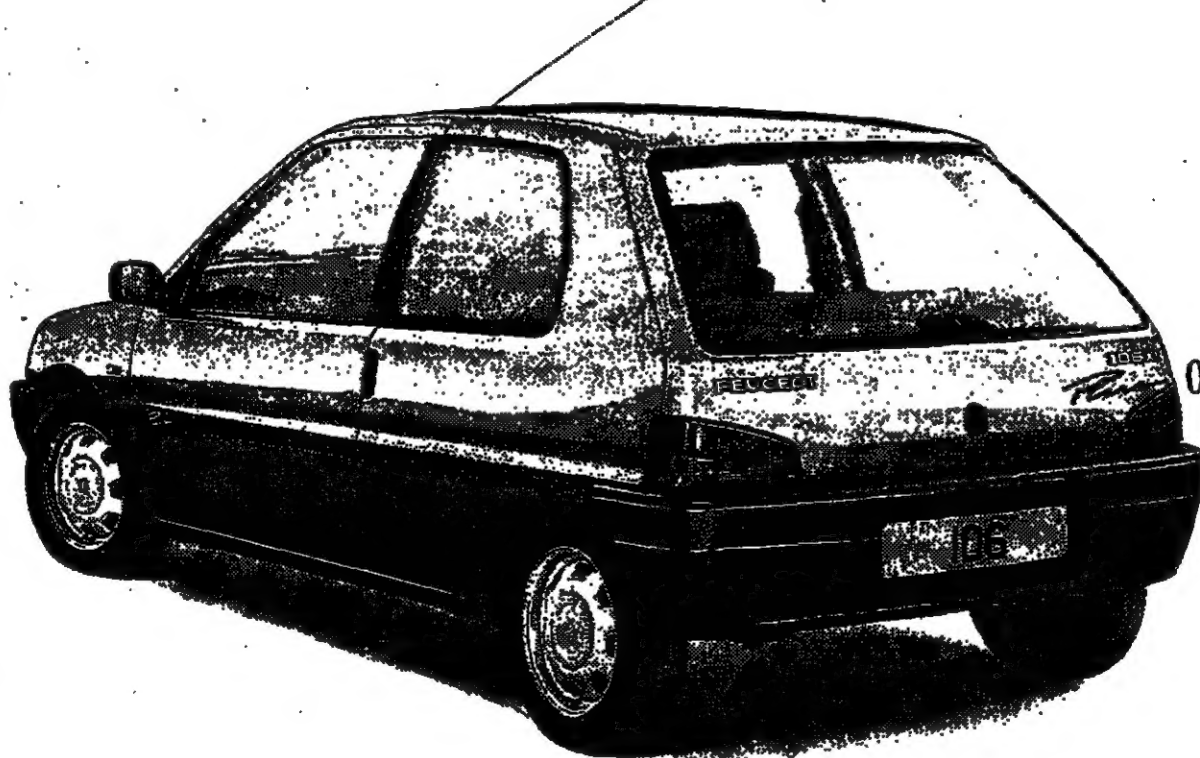
Chess men vie for lead

The English team has made a successful start to the European team championship in Debrecen, Hungary, defeating Spain by 2½ points to 1½ in the first round. Hungary by the same margin in round two and Croatia 3-1 in the third. Nigel Short has won two games and drawn one of the three played, while Michael Adams, from Truro, Cornwall, has won all three of his games. Russia leads the contest with 9½ points out of a possible 12. Holland has 8½ and England 8.

Carrier saves four crew

The Royal Navy aircraft carrier *Invincible* yesterday reported the rescue of four survivors from the 12-man crew of a Danish ship which sank 280 miles off north-west Spain. Three bodies were also found in the water. The merchant vessel *Charm* radioed for help before sinking. It was not immediately known why it ran into trouble.

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Syllabus in English examined for bias

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

■ A survey exposing discrimination throughout the careers of women at the Bar is likely to herald reforms in selection

on the ground of sex. Half the heads of chambers agreed women faced disadvantage at the Bar.

Among the findings are that despite similar educational qualifications, women on average had to make 12 applications for pupillage compared with eight for men and had more interviews, 5.2 compared with 3.8 for men. At interview, there was a clear difference in treatment: for pupillages, 54 per cent of women were asked questions about future plans, marriage and children compared with 27 per cent of men.

Sex discrimination was most common in the allocation of work, with a knock-on for potential earnings. The survey found a significant gap in the earnings of men and women. Fewer than 20 per cent of respondents had a gross income of more than £100,000 compared with nearly 35 per cent of men.

The report urges several steps including a new open appointments system for the bench based on performance appraisal, targets, monitoring and publication of vacancies and selection criteria. For the Bar it calls for new systematic recruitment procedures for chambers and an equality policy in the profession's code of conduct.

The Lord Chancellor in a statement said that he wished to study the findings in more depth and that he hoped more women would apply for silk and the bench.

Without Prejudice? Sex Equality at the Bar and in the Judiciary (TMS Management Consultants, Southbourne Coast Road, Bournemouth BH6 4DX)

Looks page 18

Position	Barristers		Solicitors	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Lord of Appeal in Ordinary	10	0	-	-
Lords Justices of Appeal	26	1	-	-
High Court judges	80	3	-	-
Circuit judges	402	19	49	3
Recorders	384	61	49	3
Assistant recorders	339	40	75	6
District judges	-	-	236	18
Metropolitan stipendiary	19	8	24	1
Provincial stipendiary	-	-	-	-
Magistrates	12	2	13	0

Sources: General Council of the Bar

BY BILL FROST

and called in the police and during 15 hours of questioning Fielding made gradual and grudging admissions."

John Duncan, for the defence, said that the fraud had been set up by a previous welfare secretary who was now dead. Fielding had been his mistress. The man had spent money on holidays and boats. After his death, Fielding carried on the fraud.

"She was under his spell — the mistress of an older and dominating man. Not all the money was for her personal benefit," Mr Duncan said.

Mr Simms said: "The money was removed in sums of £60-£70 at a time but involved a vast number of cheques. Indeed, some of those paid out involved claims by people who were already dead. A regional officer of the Legion became suspicious

Fielding admitted eight specimen charges of forgery and theft and was jailed for 12 months. The judge said: "You were trusted by a charitable organisation and betrayed that trust. You participated fully and when the other party died you continued with what you had learnt — forgery."

Bravery trophy: Sian Worgan at yesterday's nautical awards ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel, London

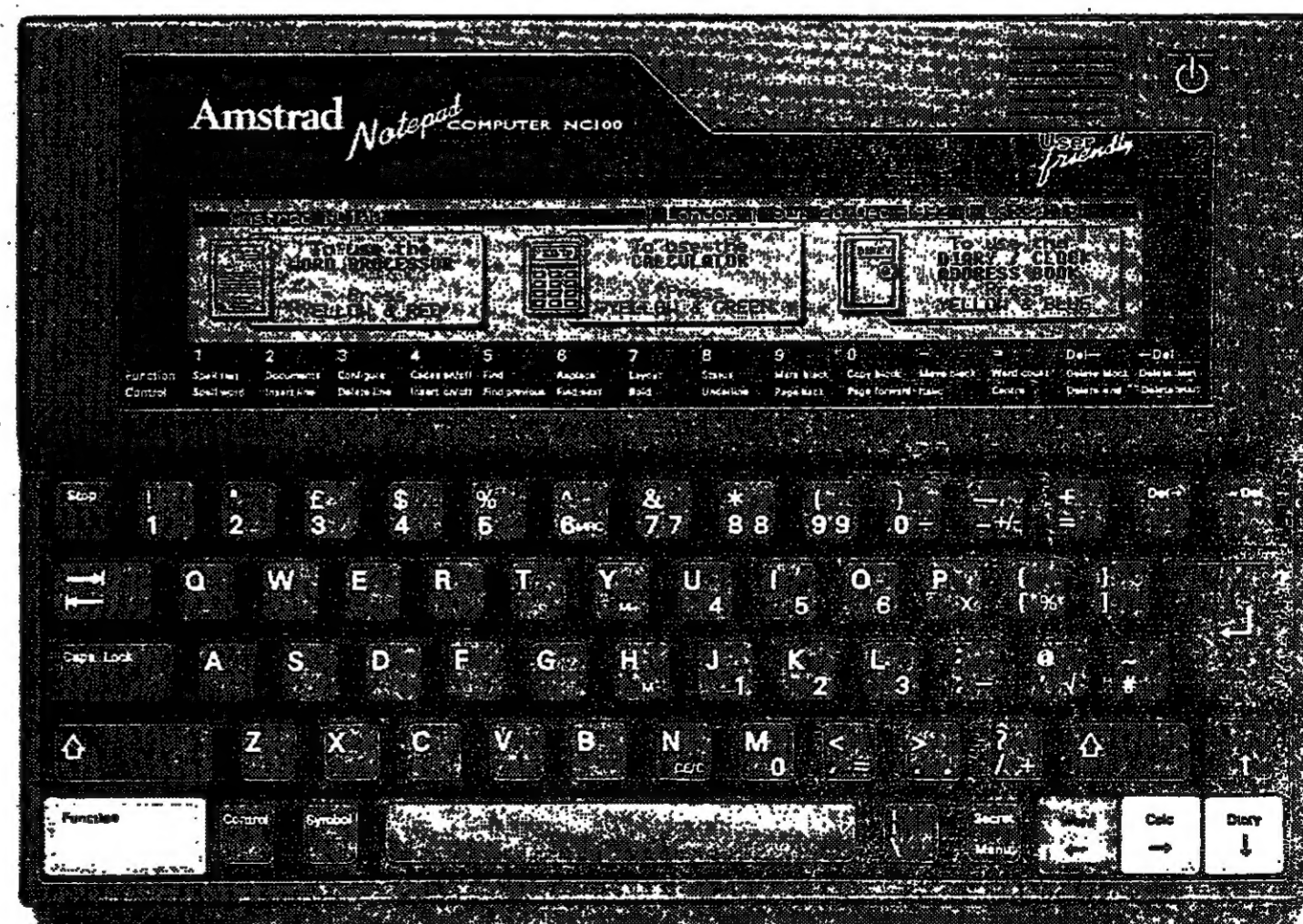
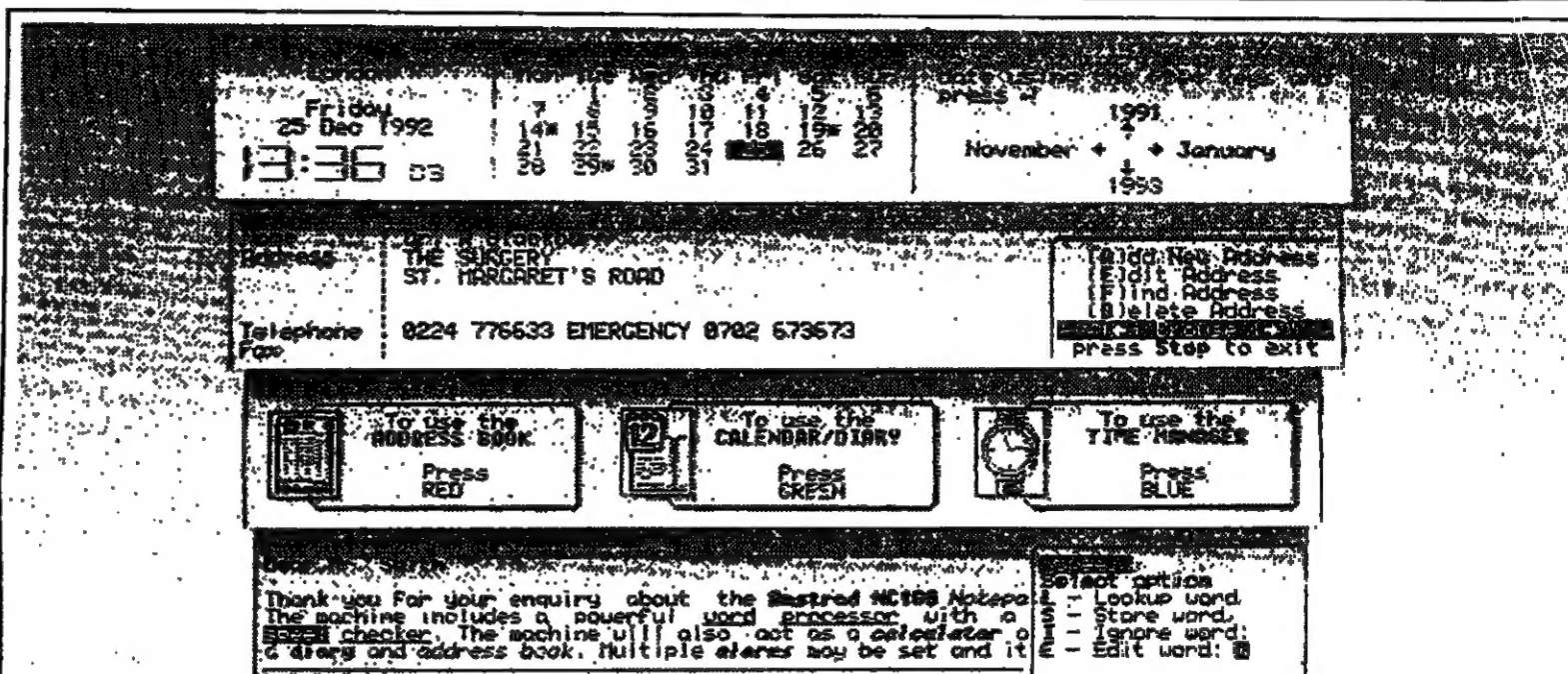
A NURSE who took command of a stricken ketch after a freak wave had caused the death of its skipper was presented with a trophy for bravery and seamanship by Sir Peter de la Bilière at a ceremony in London yesterday (Malcolm McKee writes).

mast crashing into the cockpit, killing its skipper and breaking the arm of a crewman. She went back into the cabin, established the yacht's position and sent out a mayday call seconds before another wave drowned all electrical power. For the next 21 hours, she made "not a single mistake of seamanship," the Royal Southampton Yacht Club, which nominated her, said.

cockpit wrecked, the yacht's steering wheel buckled and jammed and the yacht in danger of sinking. Miss Worgan set about rigging makeshift steering and bringing the yacht back under control.

During the night, she and the remaining fit crew member survived on bars of chocolate while she steered. The next day, she attracted the attention of a passing aeroplane and the yacht was taken in tow by a fishing vessel.

With the cabin windows smashed, the



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Canteen cooks urged to use less fat say children vote with their dinner money

Health comes bottom in the school meals league table

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

JACK Spratt would go hungry in most schools today if he were serious about avoiding fat. School meals contain large amounts, liberally accompanied by sugar and salt, says a report that sets out nutritional guidelines for improving children's diets.

Some school cooks doubt if the guidelines would work. "You can't tell teenagers what to eat," said one. "They are old enough to know what they prefer."

More than 90 per cent of parents believe school meals are important and 66 per cent say that they should be healthy and nutritious. Yet only 42 per cent of schoolchildren eat them, down from nearly 66 per cent in 1979, according to the report published by the Caroline Walker Trust, which campaigns for better food.

The report says that schools must provide more bread, cereals, fruit and vegetables and less fatty, sugary and salty

New guidelines recommend more nutritious meals for schoolchildren but good marketing at the canteen counter is vital

foods. The way that the food is marketed to the children is as important as what is bought and how it is cooked, it adds. "Children are notoriously faddy and inconsistent in their choices of food," Gill Cawdron, chair of the School Meals Campaign, which welcomed the report, said. "Parents may encourage their children to eat school dinners but the children can spend their dinner money on other things."

Placing healthy dishes such as salads at the front of the school canteen counter or under a spotlight can increase their popularity, she said. Posters advertising combinations of dishes that together cost £1 can also increase sales. Some schools hold tasting sessions of new dishes and discuss healthy foods in home economics classes.

The report says getting the right message across to children is vital for healthy eating habits in adulthood. Many of the diet-related processes that lead to illness in adulthood begin in early life. Thickening of the arteries, which causes heart disease, can be seen in children under ten.

School cooks contacted yesterday were sceptical that children can be made to eat healthy foods or that there was a link between diet and academic performance.

The school at the top of the examination tables published last week, Queen Mary's Grammar in Walsall, West Midlands, offered sausage and chips yesterday, while that at the bottom, Nugent Roman Catholic comprehensive in Liverpool, provided pizza and chips.

Dot Pritchard, cook-supervi-

sor at Queen Mary's, a boys' school, said that she had provided 200 helpings of sausages and ketchup and 80 each of cheese and potato pie and chicken casserole yesterday, but that she had to ration the sausages or they would all have gone in the first ten minutes. "We have to provide one healthy choice each day but they go for the sausages."

For today she had been allocated 180 portions of sweet and sour turkey. "I know they won't like that. They like a bit of pastry. I have reduced the order to 60 and ordered 120 meat pies."

The boys at Nugent gain fewer GCSEs but have a longer menu, with seven items on offer yesterday, including lamb steaks, turkey casserole and a corned beef ploughman's lunch. More than half opted for pizzas or fish fingers.

"Most go for chips each day," Rose McCarthy, the cook, said. "They are not keen on salads and fresh fruit. They go for biscuits and crisps. It is a losing battle trying to get them to eat healthily."



Going green: one pupil with peas and mashed potato, but many prefer chips

Teenager concealed two births

A woman of 19 yesterday admitted trying to conceal the birth of two babies in 17 months. Deborah Morrison, of Corby, Northamptonshire, also admitted cruelty to a baby but denied two charges of manslaughter.

Oxford Crown Court was told that there were many difficulties in proving how the babies died and the judge, Mr Justice Rouse, entered a formal not guilty verdict on one manslaughter charge and allowed the other to remain on file. Sentencing was adjourned for psychiatric tests.

Jobs ruling challenged

The Equal Opportunities Commission is to petition the House of Lords for leave to challenge a Court of Appeal ruling that employment protection laws do not discriminate against the 5.7 million part-timers in Britain.

The commission argues that making part-timers work three years longer for employment protection rights amounts to indirect sex discrimination because 86 per cent of part-timers are women.

US honours Dead Donkey

Channel 4's television newsroom comedy *Drop The Dead Donkey* won an award for best popular arts programme at the International Emmy Awards in New York.

A-C4 careers programme on hairdressing shared a children's award and two ITV programmes, *Joe Corcoran: A Life Story*, and *A Dangerous Man: Lawrence of Arabia*, also won prizes at the ceremony for programmes first shown outside the US.

Art records

Sothby's achieved eight records for Latin American art in New York on Monday. That for Fernando Botero's *Portrait of a Woman* was \$580,000, while the *Casa de las Gacelas* by Gacelas sold for \$1.54 million (£1 million).

Search ends

The search for two fishermen missing off the north Cornish coast has been abandoned. Arnold Munn and Neil Harding, both from Padstow, were reported overdue on Monday.

Climber killed

The body of a male climber has been found on Ben Alder in the Scottish Highlands. A search began on Sunday when a Dundee University student was reported missing.

Bodies found

The bodies of a boy aged 7 and a woman — believed to be his mother — were found in a fume-filled car parked in Smallfield, Surrey.

Religious broadcasts 'at risk'

By RUTH GLENNIE
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Anglican church in Scotland has condemned the "men in white" at the BBC who are reorganising Radio 4 long wave. The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, said the daily service was "almost certainly" at risk. He criticised the "marginalisation" of religious broadcasting by the removal of the department of Manchester.

Bishop Holloway said: "We all know that the adding machine men are on the march in the BBC and religious broadcasting is one of their main targets." He said at the presentation of the Sandford St Martin Trust religious radio awards at Lambeth Palace that he was immensely proud of the achievements of religious broadcasting in Britain.

A message from Marmaduke Hussey, BBC chairman, read in response to the bishop's comments, said: "I regard the maintenance of religious broadcasting as a highly important strand in the BBC's output, both now and in the future."

Merit awards went to BBC Radio 1 for a music documentary on the Easter story; a Radio 4 programme on a 12th century mystic; and another to Radio 4 for "The Gospel according to St Mark", one of its year-long Bible readings.

RUC accused of murder cover-up

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE police in Northern Ireland were accused yesterday of what amounts to covering up the criminal activities of an informer, working within the IRA, who took part in the murder of a British soldier.

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, said that a BBC documentary broadcast last night made clear that the RUC informer, named only as Michael, had taken part in the murder of an off-duty soldier in Belfast last year. Despite his admission of guilt, however, there appeared to have been no attempt to prosecute the agent and it was not clear whether the Director of Public Prosecutions in Belfast had received a report on the case.

Mr Mallon said that it was now a matter of grave importance for the integrity of the law that the police disclosed when they became aware of the informer's involvement in a murder and whether steps were then taken to inform the DPP. "It would be an intolerable situation in any society if you had those who are police informers being given a position of being above the law."

The RUC said that it would not comment on the matter until after officers had had a chance to see the programme. He could not confirm whether the agent's handlers knew that he had been involved in a

murder or whether an investigation was carried out. The documentary, *An Inside Story Special*, shown on BBC1, described how the informer worked for RUC special branch for four years while also working for an IRA cell that carried out bombings and shootings in Belfast. His information led to the discovery of weapons and explosives and apparently helped to save many lives, but it also led him to take part in breaches of the law. Speaking on camera in disguise, he said that he had acted as the getaway driver in the IRA murder in June last year of Tony Harrison, 21, at his girlfriend's home in Belfast.

John Ware, the reporter, said that police handlers told the agent to put "the murder and Belfast behind him" and move abroad. He has since left Ireland and has been paid about £150,000 in return for information and to help him to settle.

The case again highlights the dilemma facing the authorities when dealing with agents in Northern Ireland. To be effective and credible, agents must involve themselves to a degree in the activities of those they are informing upon. Until recently, Home Office guidelines were known to stipulate that agents must not commit crimes and get away without prosecution.

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Mother Teresa unexpectedly entered the debate yesterday, urging voters to reject abortion. In a letter to the headquarters of the Pro-Life Campaign, she said that the world was in great danger from abortion, which she described as the greatest destroyer of peace and love.

blue but there are plans to paint four new ones indigo and turquoise. The ships have a capacity for 1,600 containers, which they carry between Europe and Australia.

Maps made to order are unveiled

By JOHN YOUNG

A NEW range of Ordnance Survey maps, produced to individual customers' orders, will be launched today by Lord Strathclyde, parliamentary under secretary at the Department of the Environment. The maps, called Superplan, are said to be a world first for Britain.

Then production has been made possible by transferring of all the data amassed by surveyors on to computer. The process began in 1973 and is due to be completed early in 1995, a decade earlier than was predicted. Of the 230,000 paper maps pro-

170,000 are already in computer form. Instead of buying one or more adjoining maps, customers can order maps of particular areas to their own specifications, on any scale between 1:200 and 1:5,000. Each map can be produced in about five minutes.

Professor David Rhind, director-general of the survey, said yesterday that the system could be used, for instance, to ensure that accurate details of a proposed new development were sent to all local residents likely to be affected, or to prevent duplication in sending emergency vehicles to accidents.

Houghton Main pits and will meet some of the 1,000 staff at British Rail's maintenance works in Doncaster which would face severe difficulties if the pit closures went ahead.

Three rallies will be held in the evening. The TUC had originally planned only one but demand for the 2,000 tickets outstripped the supply.

"All this is only the beginning," he said. "We expect to see the use of computer networks becoming so cheap and commonplace that computer maps, and the capabilities they provide, will be used much as electricity is now drawn from a domestic 13-amp plug."

By Robin Young

included false teeth, glass eyes, artificial limbs, hearing aids, wigs, wheelchairs, crutches and a Zimmer frame, a sack of snakes and a box of poisonous spiders. Some single men left behind false breasts or female undergarments.

For the 1993 edition of *AA Hotels and Restaurants in Britain and Ireland* the AA questioned 2,000 British hotels about the things guests steal, leave behind or break, their room service requests, and the embarrassments they cause.

The survey proves, the AA says, that the higher the hotel's star rating, the greater its bill for thieving guests. Brian Sack, partner in the Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel on Ullswater, noticing a guest with three hotel satchels in his

three hotel ashtrays in her handbag, deftly removed two of them with the gentle reproof that one should be quite enough.

Thefts range from the petty removal of TV remote control batteries, light bulbs, pot pourri, room numbers, and fire assembly

notices, through the curious: a single strip of wallpaper, a toilet brush, and a picture of Miss World 1988, to the major grand-

father clocks, a grand piano, two beds, a stuffed bear, a dance floor carpet and a complete crop of onions taken from the

Things guests left behind

Breakages included 59 toilet seats (one broken into 12 pieces). One hotel had its front door kicked down by three members of the SAS who had been locked out. At the Seckford Hall Hotel, Woodbridge, Suffolk, a sleepwalking guest

Room service requests included jam sandwiches and fillet steak for a dog; fried eggs with ice cream and chocolate sauce; and

Hoteliers said that some guests' complaints were ridiculous. Bad weather caused offence, though other natural phenomena that upset guests included birdsong and the sound of the sea. One guest at the

the sea. One guest at the Seacrest Hotel, Southsea, Hampshire, complained to the tourist board that the 1987 hurricane had kept him awake. The roof of the hotel had blown off.

☐ **AA Hotels & Restaurants in Britain & Ireland**
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Report of:

Waldegrave launches hotline for citizen's charter complaints

BY MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL telephone hotline providing information on the quality of service to which everyone will be entitled under the citizen's charter is to be launched by William Waldegrave, the public service minister.

The service, to be called Charterline, will cost an estimated £3 million a year to operate. It will provide detailed information on all 28 charters, from British Rail's passenger charter to the National Health Service's patient's charter and the legal system's courts charter.

Charterline staff, who will be equipped with a data base containing details of the levels and quality of services required from all public sector services and private sector utilities, will be available to answer calls between 8am and 8pm on weekdays and between 8am and noon on Saturdays.

A location for the Charterline office has yet to be decided. Officials hope to have a pilot scheme running early in the new year, with the national service fully operational within 12 months. Callers will have access to the service on an 0345 local rate charge line, regardless of where they live in Britain.

The Charterline service, which will be highlighted in the first annual report on the citizen's charter, published today, is being seen as a practical example of government attempts to introduce the entrepreneurial spirit into the corridors of power. In addition, Charterline will double as a performance yardstick, providing details on the number of complaints made about specific public services.

Plans to improve public services and private utilities begin in earnest today with details of a new information service

Despite being heralded by Mr Waldegrave as "a genuine revolution in Whitehall", ministers have yet to convince the public that the citizen's charter initiative amounts to anything more than a pre-election gimmick. The charters may be the latest example of the momentum towards the overhaul of the public sector, highlighted by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler in their recent book *Reinventing Government*, but few people have heard of them, with the exception of the BR passenger's charter, which most commuters do not take seriously.

The annual report, in the form of a white paper, will also outline the government's plans to press ahead with the next stage of civil service reforms, in which up to 40,000 jobs could be privatised.

Under the Next Steps "market testing" initiative, Mr Waldegrave will outline plans for business worth £1.5 billion to be contracted out to the private sector.

The largest part of the programme will be information technology services, including the running of the 12 Inland Revenue data computers. Core civil service functions, such as statistics and the Treasury's economic model, as well as more traditional civil service activities, are expected to be made subject to external competition.

Mr Waldegrave hopes to

boost the efficiency of the central civil service by laying down the terms and conditions under which private sector companies can bid to carry out public sector work. The market testing initiative, while familiar to local authorities in the form of contracting out, is still quite novel for many Whitehall departments. Not all this work is expected to be contracted out, but civil service efficiency rates will have to improve if it is to remain in-house.

Civil service unions fear that the gradual privatisation of public services could undermine the traditional confidentiality and impartiality of the civil service. It could also lead to the abolition of national pay bargaining, increasing the downward pressure on civil service pay.



Clown jewel: circus manager Gerry Cottle thinks Danise Payne is a gem

Cottle unmoved by tears of a clown

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

British clowns are in no laughing mood over the arrival today of an American clown, chosen by the circus manager Gerry Cottle to appear in his Christmas show. Mr Cottle hired 5ft Danise Payne after saying that home-grown clowns were unoriginal, untalented prima donnas.

Since Mr Cottle's announcement two of his clowns, Silly Sam and Little Sam, have walked out of his touring show. Clowns International, the clowns' union, last week announced its intention to picket Heathrow airport today when Ms Payne, otherwise known as Baby D, arrives.

The union, which represents 400 of Britain's leading clowns, also planned to demonstrate outside Mr Cottle's Wembley show. It said it was protesting about Mr Cottle hiring a foreigner when two thirds of its members were out of work. But after a six-hour meeting in London earlier this week, the clowns voted not to picket as a body, but to welcome Baby D.

Martin Burton, alias Zippo

the clown, said: "What Mr Cottle is saying is totally unfounded. I know he could have found a good clown in Britain. I have been awarded the Clown of the Year title by an American body and I spend every winter in America training their clowns in British techniques." There were people in America who were saying the British have too much influence on clowning.

Mr Cottle, who is a former clown and is vice-president of Clowns International, was unrepentant. "It's true there are a lot of clowns out of work, but a lot of clowns are no good and they are incredibly temperamental as well," he said. "Of course there are some good ones in Britain but they are booked up already for Christmas." He was only trying to keep his business going.

He said that the British circus was in trouble because of a lack of training. "We are the only country in Europe without a circus school. Clowns are not properly trained. Many just drift into the trade."

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Poachers kill deer for trophy value

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of mutilated stags' carcasses on Exmoor has revived tales of a mysterious beast preying on deer and sheep that have long been part of the folklore of a wild and remote area.

However, even this legendary creature is not thought capable of hacking off stags' heads and leaving their bodies to rot. Police believe that falling venison prices, and hence the difficulty of disposing of carcass meat, may have forced poachers to turn to killing deer mainly for their trophy value.

PC Vernon Rush, of Avon and Somerset police, said: "It seems people are shooting stags for the head and antlers or the feet, which can all be mounted. We hear that £800 to £1,000 is the going black market price for a mounted head and antlers."

PC Rush is based at Exford, one of two stations just inside Somerset from which the police keep an eye on the moors. "During October, we found about ten headless stags, usually reported to us by local hunts or rangers, which compares with only one or two such incidents over the past ten years."

Poaching normally increases in October, the rutting season. The stags tend to congregate in the same place each year and make a great deal of noise, enabling them to be found easily at night. PC

Rush said: "The moors cover a big area and the poachers are well equipped with searchlights, four-wheel-drive vehicles and high-powered rifles."

Deer roam over much of Exmoor. They are hunted for sport with the permission of private landowners and farmers are allowed to shoot them to prevent damage to crops. Hunts traditionally present farmers with the heads of stags killed on their land. Wild venison fetches only about 50p a lb, about half the price of a few years ago, whereas farmed meat sells for £1.25 a lb.

Graham Sirl, warden of a deer sanctuary run by the League Against Cruel Sports at Duverton near Exford, said: "A poacher can expect to get about £600 for a head, which is good money for a night's work. The rest of the carcass is probably worth no more than £75, which is not worth the risk involved in getting rid of it."

Tom Lock, a retired carpenter in the nearby village of Hawkrigg, who earns a living from carving antlers into items including pen-holders and candlesticks, says he is surprised to hear that stags' heads fetch such a price. "I do get antlers attached to skulls from farmers who have shot the animal on their land but I have never been offered any poached ones." He mainly uses antlers that have been shed by deer each April.

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



FOR the first time in living memory, there is no pantomime in the West End. Adults everywhere are bitterly upset. Like attractive wooden toys, Paddington Bear and Zoots, pantomimes are what adults wish children would enjoy rather than what children actually enjoy.

As a child, I contemplated each pantomime season with fresh dread: dread of actors coming into the audience rather than staying on stage, dread of having to join in with the songs that floated on banners and, above all, dread of having to go onstage.

Yet my nostalgia for pantomime blossomed the moment I was too old to visit it. By my late teens, I was panto-mad, so much so that

while other university students were acting in Brecht or dressing up as punks I found myself sneaking off to watch Arthur Askey and Dickie Henderson in Cinderella at the Bristol Hippodrome twice in one season.

"I'm delighted to say we have Henry Cooper in the audience here today!" Arthur Askey would announce. "Stand up Henry and take a bow! Ooops. I'm so sorry, madam!"

Now that I have children of my own, I have the perfect excuse for pantomime. Last year, I took my four-year-old daughter and her friend Freya to *Aladdin* in Cambridge. I loved every minute of it but shortly before the interval, just as they were being asked to join in with the first song, my daughter started to cry and Freya was sick.

The absence of a pantomime in the West End this year may be a source of much grief to sophisticated grown-ups such as myself, but I fancy there'll be rejoicing in the playgrounds.

مكتبات الأمل

Recovery

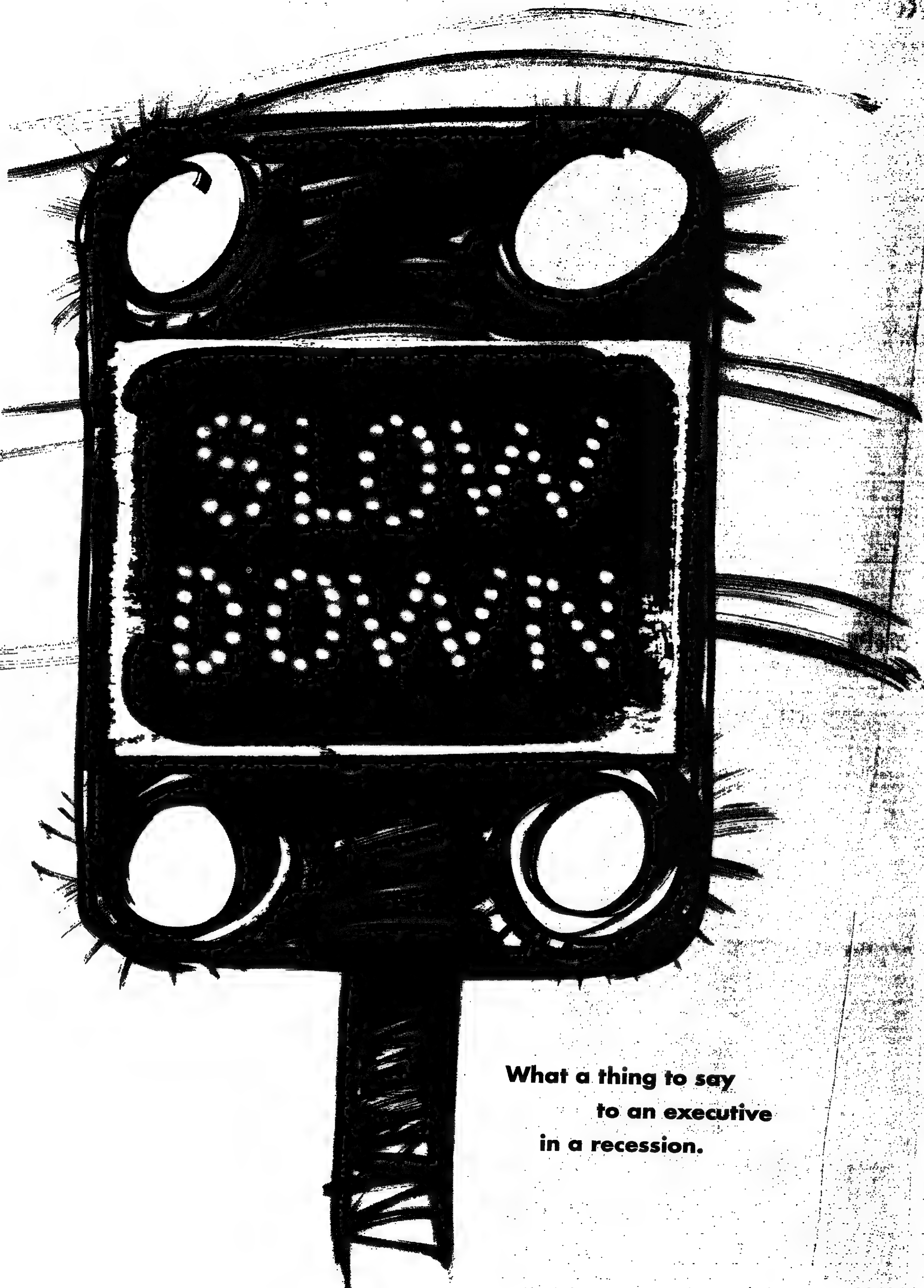
By David Mervin
The economy is showing signs of recovery, but the recovery is not uniform. Some sectors are growing faster than others. The services sector is particularly strong, but the manufacturing sector is still struggling. The recovery is also uneven geographically, with some regions growing faster than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of income, with some groups of people benefiting more than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the quality of jobs, with some jobs being better than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the pace of growth, with some sectors growing faster than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall health of the economy, with some indicators showing improvement and others showing decline. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the future prospects of the economy, with some people being optimistic and others being pessimistic. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall impact of the recession, with some people being more affected than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall state of the world, with some regions being more stable than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall quality of life, with some people being more satisfied than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall future of the world, with some people being more hopeful than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall impact of the recession on the world, with some regions being more affected than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall state of the world, with some regions being more stable than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall quality of life, with some people being more satisfied than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall future of the world, with some people being more hopeful than others. The recovery is also uneven in terms of the overall impact of the recession on the world, with some regions being more affected than others.

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By Sheila Guna
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to an executive
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Recovery the priority after turbulent times in Europe, Hurd tells MPs

By ROBERT MORGAN
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

EC DEBATE

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday attempted to sound an optimistic note on Britain's presidency of the EC as he looked back on what he termed "one of the most turbulent periods in Community history".

A succession of troubles during the presidency would ensure that next month's Edinburgh summit marking the end of Britain's period in office would produce one of the heaviest agendas of recent years.

Mr Hurd conceded that the EC's problems could not be solved in detail at Edinburgh and emphasised that the aim was "to pass from argument to coherent action".

Dr Jack Cunningham, the

shadow foreign secretary, seized on critical remarks by some senior EC figures about Britain's presidency and called it an "almost unmitigated disaster".

Opening a Commons debate on the EC, Mr Hurd admitted that the Community was now faced with economic problems and "weakness of activity in most if not all member states". It had been shown that what had once been seen as a puritanical British call for the need to constrain spending was no longer a minority view.

Mr Hurd recalled the "ambitious" plans of Jacques Delors, the Commission presi-

dent, to increase the EC budget, and said Maastricht had emphasised the principle of sound public finances. "This means the Community cutting its coat according to its cloth and setting priorities."

He conceded that against this background, the "thorny topic" of future financing of the Community would be a dominant issue next month. He admitted that the summit would aim at the "far from easy" target of achieving unanimous agreement.

Mr Hurd repeated the Chancellor's call for the aims of Britain's Autumn Statement to be adopted to boost confidence, promote recovery and protect capital spending. A full discussion of economic

development was essential in Edinburgh. "We need to consider what action member states can take both individually and at Community level to hasten recovery and strengthen growth."

He said that a priority at Edinburgh would be the need to finalise an arrangement enabling Denmark to ratify the Maastricht treaty. He repeated his insistence that renegotiation of the treaty would not be acceptable to any member state.

The ambitious agenda for the six-month presidency had been a programme with six key elements: Gatt completion of the single market; future financing of the Community; enlargement; subsidiarity; and the Danish proposals on the Maastricht

treaty. There had been progress on all these and the EC wanted to make that progress decisive at Edinburgh. The greatest progress had been made on Gatt and the single market.

Mr Hurd was pressed by a number of MPs on reports that Britain would take a more relaxed, or "southern European", view of the need to implement EC rules. He replied that Whitehall and town hall officials sometimes went too far in implementing new rules and would be discouraged from being too rigorous in their enforcement.

Dr Cunningham responded that the lack of progress had made Britain's presidency appear a "fiasco" to many in Europe, although he paid tribute to the one exception to

the general failure, the advances made on Gatt. He urged the government to put economic recovery at the top of the agenda for the Edinburgh summit. In five months of the British presidency there had been no action for economic recovery in Europe.

On Monday, he said, journalists were briefed by 10 Downing Street that a new package was to be put forward by the prime minister and the Chancellor. Twenty-four hours later Norman Lamont was pouring cold water over this new spending package. The result was confusion in Europe. This was not surprising if numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street could not come to agreement about what this package was about. There should be Europe-

wide measures for employment, job creation, investment in transport and infrastructure, and measures for industrial regeneration and investment. He feared that there would be no solution to the question of subsidiarity at Edinburgh because the government's view of what it meant greatly differed from that of other member states. He supported the enlargement of the EC but said that Turkey should not be allowed to join while the Cyprus issue was unresolved.

Dr Cunningham called for concerted action from the EC and UN to make sanctions work in the former Yugoslavia. He said pressure should be put on Greece to stop tankers supplying the Serbs. Nick Budgen, Tory MP for

Wolverhampton South West, reopened party wounds over Europe by recalling the tactics of government whips in the Maastricht debate earlier this month. He complained that, although politics was a game played with a hard ball, there was a convention that whips did not try to come between a member and his family, or a member and his constituency association. These conventions had been ignored. Asked by Stuart Gars-Jones, minister of state at the Foreign Office, whether he believed in referendums, Mr Budgen said that he preferred parliamentary democracy, but for this to work honest opinion must not be suppressed.

Hidden agenda, page 14
Lorries targeted, page 15

Smith pressed to act over union influence

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Labour figures are pressing John Smith to intervene in the much vaunted enquiry into the party's links with trade unions, amid signs that their influence on key decisions.

Prominent members of the ruling national executive want the Labour leader to encourage the review group to tear up its conservative draft proposals and substitute them with a radical one. One vote system to end the role of the unions in the selection of Labour candidates and the election of the party leader.

An NEC member, aware of the deliberations going on within the review, said yesterday: "They are in danger of bringing forward a mouse."

Mr Smith, who has deliberately stayed out of the review discussions up to now, is shortly to study its draft conclusions and the options it outlines, and will make his views known to the group before it draws up its final report. Margaret Beckett, his deputy, is a member.

Shadow cabinet colleagues are optimistic that he will try to beef up the proposals in line with his pledge after his election to carry on Neil Kinnock's modernising reforms.

The Times has learned that, contrary to expectations, the review committee's latest draft report suggests that the electoral college for leadership elections should stay, albeit in revised form, and the junior members should continue to

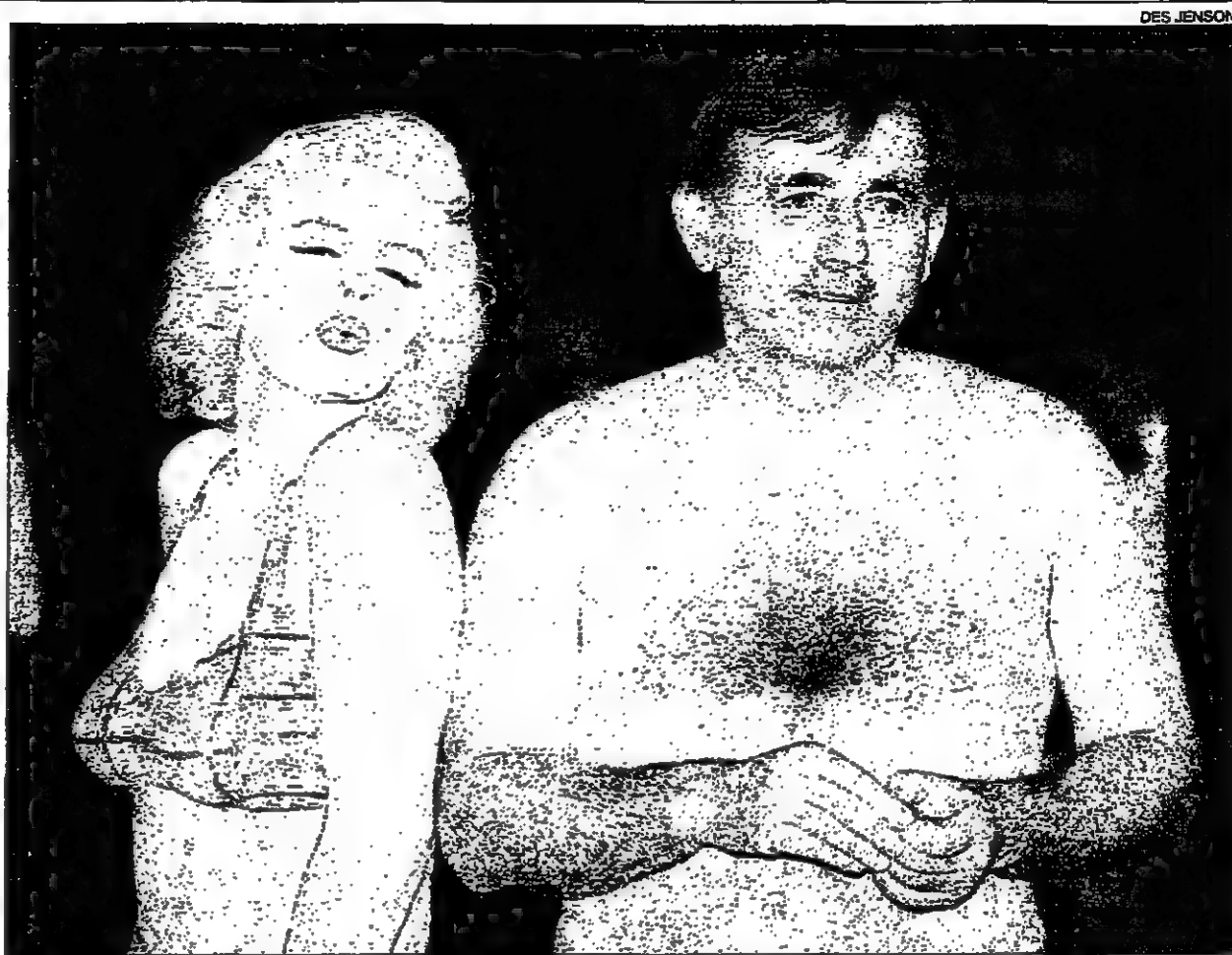
have a say in parliamentary selections.

Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, is reported to be fighting a rear-guard action against proposals to retain the union link in those areas. That has brought him into conflict with John Edmonds, leader of his own sponsoring union, the GMB, who is the foremost advocate of maintaining the union link in selections. Mr Edmonds has proposed that unionists paying the political levy should be able to become "registered supporters", and vote in the same way as party members.

NEC members believe that although the system might work in the case of the GMB, which has regularly maintained membership lists, it would pose problems for less well organised unions. Some fear it could pave the way for a renewed outbreak of infiltration by hard left and Militant activists who, having been barred the party route to influence.

Other NEC figures say the link in parliamentary selections should be ended immediately. One said: "Forget about the block vote at conference — the success of this review will be judged on this question of selecting candidates and MPs."

The committee, whose membership is tilted towards the unions, is due to report to the NEC in January. The draft report, a summary of discussions held so far and drawn up by the office of Larry Whitty, the general secretary, supports the retention of the union link. It proposes the ending of the block vote at Labour conferences, but still says the unions should keep some 50 per cent of the vote at the conference, with party members getting 30 per cent and MPs and MEPs some 20 per cent.



Topless Bottomley: Tory Peter Bottomley gets inspiration from Monroe lookalike Pauline Bailey before the Lords v Commons charity swim yesterday, at which the Women's Caring Trust hoped to raise more than £60,000

Press 'victims' to give evidence at enquiry

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of inaccurate press reports will appear before a special enquiry called by MPs next month into the likely impact of legislation to control the media.

Although the privately funded enquiry, called by the Labour MP Clive Soley, has not yet announced its agenda, among the "victims" to give evidence next Tuesday is an underdog citizen named, inaccurately, in one of the "royal" stories, and another whose life was allegedly put at risk through

an incorrect news story. In further hearings, held in public in a Commons committee room, MPs will question tabloid editors, representatives of newspaper bodies and Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission.

Mr Soley set up the cross-party committee of MPs to take evidence before his freedom and responsibility of the press bill comes up for second reading in the Commons on January 29.

The bill would set up an independent press authority, a tougher version of the Press Complaints Commission,

with legal powers to require newspapers to publish corrections and adjudicate when complaints are made. As he won fourth place in the ballot for private members' bills, Mr Soley stands a good chance of making progress with his measure.

The chairman at the three hearings will be Patrick Cormack, a senior Conservative MP.

Other members are the Liberal Democrat Sir David Steel, the Tory MPs Michael Fabricant, Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, Dame Jill Knight, Winston Churchill, Quentin Davies and Teresa Gorman,

and for Labour, Mr Soley, Jeff Rooker, Bruce Grocott and Andrew Bennett.

The enquiry will run parallel with the Commons national heritage committee's hearings on privacy and media intrusion, which is also calling victims and editors to give evidence on the wider issues of press freedom.

In written evidence already given to Mr Soley's committee, the peace campaigner Katrina Howse told of her fight to win damages from The Sun for libel. Undisclosed damages were awarded to her by the High Court on Monday.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Plea for dockyards

Big savings would be made in the long term by keeping open Rosyth and Devonport naval dockyards, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, and Rachel Squire, Labour MP for Dunfermline West, claimed. Mr Brown said there would be savings of £560 million by the year 2015, through not having to meet redundancy payments and nuclear waste clean-up costs. Delegations from both dockyards visit Westminster today to meet John Smith, the Labour leader.

EFA hope

The prospects for the European Fighter Aircraft have brightened following the positive comments from Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and cost reductions of up to 30 per cent which the industry had identified. Jonathan Aitken, defence procurement minister, said at question time.

Lords defeat

The government was defeated by 153 votes to 95 in the Lords over its plans to implement European curbs on fishing. A Tory revolt brought defeat during the report stage of the sea fish (conservation) bill.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Debate on MPs' pay. Car tax (abolition) bill, all stages. Lords (2.30): Debate on unemployment.

Straw predicts big squeeze on councils

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

"PHONEY" figures used by the government when calculating next year's local authority budgets will result in high council tax bills and cuts in local services, Labour claimed yesterday.

Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, produced an analysis showing that next year's settlement by the Treasury would result in a virtual freeze of council budgets. As the government has already said that councils will be capped if they exceed spending targets, he said the choice was higher-than-forecast council tax bills or widespread cuts in services and staff.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, announced local authority budgets tomorrow,

together with a transitional release scheme to help ease in the new council tax.

Mr Straw said yesterday: "What my figures highlight is that the squeeze on local authorities will be of almost unprecedented severity and will hit a great many Conservative as well as Labour-controlled councils."

In a Commons written reply Mr Howard estimated that the average rates bill next year under the old rating system would have been £637. He refused to predict council tax levels because, he said, they were a matter for individual authorities. Mr Straw said: "That is a remarkable admission from him, given all the predictions ministers made in the pre-election period."

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مكتبة الأمل

Danes top hidden agenda for EC's toughest summit

■ Denmark's Maastricht quibbles will dominate at Edinburgh. Hard-pressed ministers will be tempted by a two-track solution

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE multiple problems now afflicting the European Community make last year's summit clash at Maastricht look simple by comparison with the Edinburgh summit in just over two weeks. John Major, scooting around 11 EC capitals between now and the meeting, is carrying with him one of the longest and most troublesome agendas any summit chairman has confronted for years.

Although ministers and European commissioners are spending much of this week wrangling about money to relaunch Europe's battered economies, the prime minister's key journey will be to Copenhagen next week and will have almost nothing to do with finance. However much the summiters may try to disguise the fact, Denmark's subversive attempts to dilute the Maastricht treaty will be the leading subject on everyone's mind in Edinburgh.

Mr Major is accused, by Günther Verheugen, chairman of the German parliament's European committee, of "letting this ticking bomb lie ... for domestic reasons". In this he was expressing the

fashionable EC plaint, shared by many of the Maastricht treaty's most fervent advocates here, that Mr Major is a half-hearted bomb-disposal man. They believe the prime minister secretly hopes that the many doubts and fears corroding the Maastricht treaty will wreck it before the Conservative Party itself disintegrates over its ratification.

The British government has, by a series of accidents, edged itself towards just such a gamble: EC leaders' face a



Kinkel: told Denmark it could be kicked out

rudderless French government whose trade policy is made by furious farmers determined to wreck a world trade treaty: the exchange rate mechanism is tottering; and referendums and pollsters have discovered that Europeans care less about European unity than about the safety of their jobs.

The last of the EC's own polls showed 56 per cent of 13,000 people questioned would be "very relieved", indifferent, or hold no opinion if they were told the EC had been wound up.

Edinburgh will face further arguments over whether the Community should start negotiating with new members and over the size of subsidies from the rich north to the poor south before Maastricht's fate is known. Above all, the summiters confront a well-organised Danish coalition which has far more leverage over the shape of the Maastricht treaty than they care to admit.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told MPs this week that there was a reasonable chance that Denmark's problems would be solved, but he

MAASTRICHT



All things to all men: a Greek cartoonist's view of the many divergent interpretations of the Maastricht treaty on European union. Polls have revealed that Europeans care less about unity than the safety of their jobs

was careful not to predict that the miracle could be worked at Edinburgh. Conversations with party leaders and officials in Copenhagen underline that Mr Hurd will be lucky to avoid the summit being split by the Danish dilemma.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, completes a quick tour of EC capitals here tomorrow. On his travels he has met a wary response to Denmark's demands. These were "not unproblematic", Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said. In private Dr Kinkel was more direct, telling his Danish counterpart that, if the Danes pushed too far, they would be kicked out of the EC.

"It's on a knife-edge," said one Danish party leader, trying with difficulty to define a way for Denmark to carve a niche for itself in the Community's structure which will allow Danes to avoid several central obligations of the Maastricht treaty while not falling out of the EC altogether. A common front of seven of the Danish parliament's eight political parties have listed demands which together amount to an opt-out so enormous that it puts Mr Major's Maastricht "game, set and match" in the shade.

The parties want a guarantee, good for the entire duration of the treaty, that Danes cannot be included in any future defence policy. The rest of the EC should agree that

Denmark will not join the single currency, recognise "European citizenship" or allow any fragment of national immigration policy to be transferred to Brussels.

Political leaders in Copenhagen have accepted that their EC partners will not risk tinkering with the text of the treaty to insert new protocols but, in intensive negotiations with London, a "legally binding" formula is being hammered out. All 12 states would have to accept Denmark's exemptions as unalterable and the effective revision of the treaty would, ideally, be confirmed by the European court.

The formulas will neither be ready nor agreed at Edinburgh. If the EC agrees to

Denmark's demands, they will sanction a revolution in European integration: states would be able to choose the parts of the EC they like on an à la carte basis.

If that were to happen, Peter Sutherland, a former European commissioner, said recently, "there is no way that one could talk any more of one Community".

But the Edinburgh summiters otherwise face the even worse prospect of restarting the Maastricht talks all over again. Few leaders can face the idea in the querulous and introspective Community of 1992.

EC budget, page 1
Diary, page 20

Passport control claim angers Dutch

FROM TONY WATSON IN BRUSSELS

KENNETH Clarke, the home secretary, yesterday inflamed relations between the Dutch and British governments by alleging that British nationals entering the Netherlands next year might be treated in the same way as non-European Community visitors.

A Dutch government spokesman said that Mr Clarke had been "totally out of order" in suggesting that The Netherlands was considering any kind of unilateral action against Britain in retaliation against the government's reluctance to lift border controls next year.

But Mr Clarke admitted that because Britain, Ireland and Denmark are filing behind the plans to dismantle internal border controls and passport checks other EC countries may begin a system of putting nationals of the three countries through the same control channels as the non-Community nationals.

"The nine other EC countries know that the solid ground is that external border, and that may make contact with Britain difficult in the future," he said.

The dispute, sparked by remarks Mr Clarke made to a European parliament committee in Brussels yesterday, threatened to spill over into a meeting in London next Monday and Tuesday of EC immigration ministers. It will be their last meeting before the Community's barrier-free internal market comes into effect on January 1, and may present the last chance for the government to reach agreement with Brussels on how passport checks are made at British ports.

One country has suggested they would treat people from Britain as if they were coming from outside the Community. Mr Clarke told the meeting, explaining later that he referred to the Dutch. He said there was no chance that the Dutch could carry out their threat, as substantial redesign would be necessary to airports like Schiphol at Amsterdam to make British, Irish and Danish arrivals pass through non-EC channels.

Third World given more ozone cash

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY IN COPENHAGEN

INDUSTRIALISED countries, including Britain, will add up to \$500 million to the \$240 million already pledged to help Third World nations phase out ozone-damaging chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), ministers and officials have decided here.

The 83 signatories to the Montreal Protocol, the treaty governing CFC phase-out, are meeting in the Danish capital and will make the money available between 1994 and 1996 if developing countries agree today to follow the industrialised world and bring forward their CFC phase-out dates by four years. They will also be expected to accept the first controls on other ozone-depleting substances.

Britain and other developed nations are expected to advance their phase-out date today from 2000 to 1996. Third World countries, which enjoy a 10-year grace period, will advance their date to 2006 from 2010.

The extra money will go to replenishing a special fund set up for the purpose by the Montreal Protocol. The fund has been the subject of a growing series of squabbles since its 1990 establishment in London.

Arguments have centred on the fund's slowness in promoting projects in the developing world to eliminate CFCs, which are widely used in refrigeration, aerosols and industrial cleaning, and on the reluctance of some donor countries to provide cash.

Britain has declined to provide its pledged contributions unless projects are available for them to be spent on. "We will not put money into a UN bank account for it to sit there doing absolutely nothing," David MacLean, the environment minister, said yesterday.

The argument has now been settled by the promise of two reviews of the fund, the first of its internal workings, and the second of its future.



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Flames of anger: French farmers in Besançon look on after a Coca-Cola vending machine was set alight in protest at the US-EC trade deal

French farmers target British lorries

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

ON THE eve of a parliamentary debate and a big farmers' protest in Paris, the militant peasants' organisation yesterday declared war against British lorries entering France with agricultural products.

All such vehicles would be intercepted on the highways from December 1, along with those from the Irish Republic, the Netherlands and any from the United States, said *Co-ordination Rurale*, the hard-line group that was formed this year and created havoc on the roads and in towns in the early summer. The group, whose troops include thousands of small farmers, is joining forces with the mainstream FNSEA union, sending squadrons of tractors into central Paris as the government seeks parliamentary endorsement of its rejection of the terms of the new European

Community-United States accord on farm produce. Protesting farmers disrupted traffic in Calais and half a dozen other cities yesterday.

"Attack is the best form of defence," Jacques Laigneau, the co-ordination leader, said in announcing the offensive in a letter to President Mitterrand. "It is time to lance the abscess and make our European partners face their responsibilities. We will only succeed in making some countries understand our problem if we make them a part of it."

Britain was being targeted, he said, "because it is time for them to decide finally which continent they belong to". Since the safety of trucks could not be guaranteed, M. Laigneau suggested that the president order the customs to block them at the frontiers. The farmers' unions have

called an all-European day of protest on December 2, focusing on Strasbourg.

Riot police were being marshalled early today to prepare for the farmers' arrival in central Paris. Security will be tight near American properties or firms with American links. Coca-Cola plants and McDonalds' hamburger bars have been subject to demonstrations despite the near 100 per cent French content of their products and ownership. In case farmers were short of ideas, the mass circulation *France Soir* published a menu of choice American targets yesterday. These ranged from the obvious American embassy and headquarters of IBM France to eating and drinking spots such as Harry's Bar and the Chicago Pizza Factory.

The public's sympathy for the country's one million

agriculteurs rose yesterday with a report which showed that their income would drop by 6 per cent this year because of falling prices. The average is expected to fall fast from next year with the imposition of the reform in the common agricultural policy. The government, many of whose ministers hail from rural power bases, has been proclaiming loud and long that it will never desert the farmers in the face of what is depicted as an Anglo-Saxon plot to sacrifice French agriculture for the sake of an accord on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The opposition Gaullist and centre-right parties last night confirmed that it would not vote against the government when it places its Gatt refusal as a confidence vote under a mechanism last used to win

endorsement for France's engagement in the Gulf war. Instead, the opposition, which is trying to be even more rejectionist than Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, will table a resolution of its own. The opposition's motion calls on the government to inform its partners that France will refuse to approve the Washington agreement and that it will "use all means at its disposal, including a veto" to obtain relief.

□ Tokyo: The Japanese government last night was showing every sign of ignoring a call by Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of Gatt, for significant concessions on opening the Japanese rice market. Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, appears to be risking fresh trade disputes by maintaining that Japan has no intention of easing the ban.

EC brings the Keynesian skeleton out of its closet

Monetarism is now out of fashion. So how is a Community recovery package to be financed, asks Wolfgang Münchau



The news that the European Community summit in Edinburgh is to debate an ambitious scheme to kick-start Europe's depressed economies amounts to the clearest U-turn in economic policy since the rise of monetarism in the late 1970s. But despite growing enthusiasm for interventionist economic policies, a European recovery programme is not expected to live up to its name, if only public budgets are already overstretched.

At the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Luxembourg-based institution which would be at the heart of any recovery scheme, bankers privately reacted with incredulity and exasperation at suggestions of the quoted £40 billion or even £50 billion figures. Bonn also remains implacably opposed to any scheme which would involve an increase in Germany's EC budget contributions, already the largest among the twelve. Politically, it would be impossible for Germany to accept a greater share of the EC budget while enforcing tax rises and public spending cuts at home. A piecemeal approach towards restructuring is the best one can hope for.

Nevertheless, the emergence of a "European Recovery Programme" at the top of the EC's political agenda — even if it does not lead to immediate changes in policy — amounts to a shift away from monetarism and some of its variations towards a more pragmatic stance, especially the acceptance in principle of Keynesian demand management. This shift seems to have been accepted virtually throughout the Community — and even, implicitly, by London. It was Horst Köhler, secretary of state in the German finance ministry, who found himself unusually isolated at Monday's meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels when he tried to defend "monetarist rigour" and free market values.

In a bizarre European role

reversal, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, appears have no objections to the initiative, although he has tried to play down the significance of any recovery package. Speaking on BBC radio's *Today* programme, he said: "There is increasing worry and anxiety about growing recession in Europe... and the feeling that this is something that the Community and the countries of the Community must discuss." This is a far cry from previous official policy, summed up by the words: "If it's not hurting, it's not working."

Funds for a European recovery programme could be raised by three methods. One is the "private sector" method, as favoured by the British government. This would involve the use of the European Investment Bank, which borrows cheap money in international capital markets and then passes it on as cheap loans especially for infrastructure and environmental projects.

This could work, but only to a very limited degree. The EIB, which last year raised some £11.1 billion on capital markets could conceivably increase its exposure, but not by much more than £4 billion or £5 billion. It could not mobilise amounts even close to the £48 billion, which Henning Christophersen, the EC's finance commissioner, has been quoted as advocating in order to restore real growth next year.

The amount of investment the EIB can mobilise for infrastructure projects is normally much greater than its own contribution, because of the contribution of private-sector investors. But since the present recession is caused by a reduction of

private-sector investment and employment all over Europe, there is little hope that the private sector could itself pull Europe out of recession, even with institutional help.

Mr Lamont also said that the funding for such plans would probably involve a "reallocation of existing money". Here again, the means are limited. Given that so much of the EC's "existing money" is used in farm subsidies, a further reallocation of resources would constitute yet another blow to French and Italian farmers, beyond what would be required under an eventual trade agreement.

This leaves Keynesian demand management as the main weapon. But in most European countries there is only limited scope for further increases in borrowing in order to finance public-sector capital spending. The British budget deficit will rise to about 8 per cent of gross national product by 1993/94 — close to Italian levels, if not worse. Germany is trying to curb spending for its own reasons. Since the scope of tax increases in Europe is also limited, the question of where this money is coming from will feature prominently at the EC summit next month. It is closely linked to the issues of the EC budget and the British rebate.

"European Recovery Programme" was the official name of the Marshall Plan, which was designed to rebuild Europe after the second world war. European leaders might reflect on why it is that after 40 years of peace, prosperity and privatisation, Europe is again in desperate need of an emergency economic programme.

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مكتبات الأمل

Ceausescu, the freed playboy prince, dons dissident's halo

By SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST
AND TIM JUDAH, BALKANS CORRESPONDENT



Ceausescu claims he opposed his parents

GAUNT, chain-smoking and slurring his words, Nicu Ceausescu, the youngest son of the former Romanian dictator, Nicolae, and his wife, Elena, was freed yesterday from the Bucharest prison that had been his home since the Christmas revolution of three years ago.

Family members of the former Communist party leader helped the sick man into a car which sped off to an unknown destination in the capital. Ceausescu, 41, the one-time heir to his father's power and wealth, had been charged with genocide and illegal possession of firearms.

He was released from prison because of poor health. Suffering from chronic cirrhosis of the liver, Ceausescu spent several months undergoing treatment in both the hospital of Jilava prison, 12 miles from Bucharest, and in the capital's Fundeni hospital. There was little public reaction in Romania yesterday to his sudden release. Ana Iancu, a shop assistant in Bucharest, said: "People are so worried about where they can get food and if they will lose their jobs... They do not have time to bother about the fact that it is unjust for him to be released. There are too

many other problems. Winter is here and we are cold."

The infamous playboy was arrested during the uprising of December 1989 when his parents were forced to escape from party headquarters in the capital by helicopter. At that time, Ceausescu was party boss in the Sibiu area of central Transylvania and organised a military and police force to crush the popular revolt. He was in custody when he learned of his parents' execution.

Initially, Ceausescu was found guilty of genocide in the deaths of 89 people in Sibiu and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. But he protested his innocence and during a hearing in June last

year, the charge was amended to instigation of genocide. As investigations continued, he was given a five-year sentence for illegal possession of firearms, the only charge that stuck.

Elena Cherciu, a state prosecutor, said they did not protest at the decision to release him because of his poor health. Under the terms of his release, he will be under constant surveillance.

In an interview with *The Times* after a year in prison, Ceausescu claimed to be Romania's greatest living dissident. He said that he had argued with his parents and that they had ended him to the provinces. He also claimed that he had tried to prevent

the demolition of old Bucharest.

But few Romanians are likely to believe that tale. Throughout the period of repression, they had regaled each other with stories of the bacchanalian lifestyle of the "crown prince". To them, he represented the myth and power which collapsed in the revolution. Sex, fast cars and lots of drink embellished the stories. "From his teens, Ceausescu lived the gossip mill. He was reputed to have been rewarded with a last car for raising a classmate at the age of 14 and later to have pulled the fingernails of Olympic gymnast, Nadia Comaneci, for refusing to succumb to his sexual desires. In prison, he

refused to discuss these allegations.

During his trial in 1990 in Sibiu, small groups of people would demonstrate in support of him. Far from hating him, many held fond memories of Ceausescu. When food ran out in shops across Romania, he was remembered as the buccaneer who diverted trains to feed his fiefdom.

After the revolution, Ceausescu pointed out that, while faithful Nicolae servants had bulldozed the historic centres of a thousand towns and villages to emulate the destruction of old Bucharest, he had saved Sibiu. Indeed, Sibiu's Saxon German and Transylvanian heritage survives.

The truth has yet to be told about the revolution, and despite as he may have been Ceausescu was simply a symbol of the old regime on whom to blame the excesses of the past. The real technicians of repression were the apparitionists who seized power in 1989, and if Ceausescu had not existed they would have had to invent him. For if he was not guilty, then they were.

Romanians have mixed feelings about Ceausescu. They wanted him in jail, but they could not believe that he was a mass murderer. Re-elected to power in the recent election, Romania's rulers are hoping that this embarrassing chapter can now be closed.

Chief of police union admits failure to curb violence by neo-Nazis

■ Turkey is demanding compensation for the murder of its citizens by neo-Nazis in Germany. Italians fear they may be the next target

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN, JOHN HOLLAND IN MÖLLN AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE chairman of Germany's police trade union last night admitted serious failures in dealing with right-wing violence that led to the murders in Mölln and criticised the German authorities.

The words of Hermann Lutz, chief of the legal authorities from the German press which has been gathering pace for almost a year. All the German papers yesterday ran headlines on the killing of three Turks in an arson attack, and several condemned the government.

The Bundestag stood in silence to commemorate the victims of Mölln. Political

leaders have called on Germans to do more to protect foreigners living among them. Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, the justice minister, said that Germans must overcome the tendency to "silence, complacency and looking in the other direction". Herr Lutz said that it was high time to begin setting up units to gather information about the extreme right. He demanded that firebomb attacks be treated as murder. "I cannot understand why the courts only bring charges of manslaughter."

Turkey delivered an official protest to Germany about the

Mölln killings and has demanded compensation for the families. Representatives of Jewish and gypsy groups have condemned the Bonn government, and especially Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, for its alleged failure to act against the right.

In Mölln last night, the tidy main street of the picturesque Schleswig-Holstein village was awash in Christmas decorations. The Northern Light which bathed the 17,000 residents was so soft it made everyone and everything it touched look good, decent, clean and innocent. One only saw the newest scar on the German soul when one turned off the main road onto the tiny cobbles-stoned Gröbenstrasse.

Straight ahead, walking past the haunted faces of Turks and Germans alike, one sees the sickly yellowish building at Möhlstrasse 9, where a Turkish woman and two girls were killed. Up the same road yesterday, on his way from the local hospital to visit injured victims, came Björn Engholm, Schleswig-Holstein's minister-president. He was accompanied by Faruk Arslan, a stout man wearing a black leather jacket and a three-day beard. Mr Arslan had just lost his mother, a daughter, a niece, his home and direction in life in the fire. The Germans in the village seem to care a lot and appear to be stupefied by it all. "Terrible, just terrible," muttered one elderly woman.

Italy has reacted with shocked disbelief to the resurgence of intolerance in Germany. Italian workers in Germany, their numbers swelled by depression at home, now fear they may become the next targets of neo-Nazi racist violence.

Blow to excellence: The budget debate in the Bundestag was postponed for several hours when the computer-guided microphones failed in the newly built parliament building. Deputies criticised the architect of the building, and lamented the damage to Germany's reputation for technological excellence.



No holds barred: police officers, of a special enforcement unit, bringing down Joaquín García, 30, after he had barricaded himself in his home at Fontana, California. His young child was wounded during the standoff

Guardian Angel confesses sins

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE leader of the Guardian Angels has admitted to staging "heroic" stunts, including his own kidnapping, to gain publicity for the crime-fighting group based in New York.

Curtis Sliwa, 38, whose talent for self-publicity has been legendary but whose heroism, it now appears, is mythical, told the *New York Post* that he had set up six hoaxes since 1978 to rekindle public support for the vigilante group whenever it seemed to be waning.

Many of the most celebrated episodes of Guardian Angel bravery turn out to be play-acting, such as the occasion hours when the computer-guided microphones failed in the newly built parliament building. Deputies criticised the architect of the building, and lamented the damage to Germany's reputation for technological excellence.

In October 1980, Mr Sliwa said that he had been kidnapped by three transit policemen, threatened and later abandoned. This incident also turns out to have been fraudulent, but Mr Sliwa maintained in the interview that recent

attacks on him have been genuine. In April, he was beaten by men wielding baseball bats and in June he was shot five times in the back of a New York taxi.

It was while recovering from his gunshot wounds, and reading the thousands of letters from well-wishers, that Mr Sliwa felt a twinge of conscience. "I felt a bit unworthy," he said. "If people are going to like me it is about time they knew the whole truth. If I go from hero to burn, so be it."



Sliwa: organised stunts to attract publicity

Senator accused of harassing women

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB Packwood, the Oregon senator renowned for championing women's causes, faced demands for his resignation yesterday in Capitol Hill's latest sex scandal.

Ten former female aides or congressional lobbyists have claimed that the 60-year-old, recently divorced Republican sexually harassed them. When *The Washington Post* privately confronted him with the charges five days before the November 3 Senate elections, he denied them. Having secured a fifth six-year term, he has now implicitly owned up by apologising for any distress he caused.

Mr Packwood is the third US senator to be confronted by such charges in recent months. Washington's Brock Adams denied charges of molesting eight women, but decided not to seek re-election this year. Hawaii's Daniel Inouye has been accused of molesting his former barber and other women.

Last year's Clarence Thomas Supreme Court nomination hearings, during which a former aide, Anita Hill, accused Mr Thomas of sexual harassment, have emboldened women to step forward

with allegations they had previously kept to themselves. The hearings, had clearly had a "dramatic effect", said Patty Murray, a newly elected senator from Washington. "It reminds me of where child abuse was 20 years ago — a very closed-door issue. Similarly the message on sexual harassment is fast becoming: we do not tolerate it in our highest legislative body."

The Oregon Democratic party demanded Mr Packwood's resignation, calling him a "study in hypocrisy" because he had "always led Oregonians to believe that he has been a strong advocate for women's issues."

Women's groups, loath to torpedo one of their strongest supporters, demanded a Senate ethics committee investigation. Mr Packwood said in a statement that "my intentions were never to pressure, to offend, nor to make anyone feel uncomfortable, and I truly regret if that has occurred with anyone either on or off my staff". His press secretary, one of several women in top positions on his staff, said that he had no intention of resigning.

Besieging Serbs defy no-fly zone

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO

SERB helicopters openly defied a UN no-fly zone in Bosnia to shuttle fresh troops and supplies to Serb forces besieging the town of Gracko, Sarajevo radio said on Tuesday.

The Muslim-controlled radio accused Serbs trying to capture the strategic northern town of inflicting heavy casualties in renewed shelling and infantry attacks.

The fighting in Gracko and other towns in central and northern Bosnia came as the UN relief agency prepared to test a pledge by Serb commanders to allow aid to reach the starving populations of two beleaguered Muslim communities in the east. UN convoys will head for the stricken towns of Gorazde and Srebrenica today after assurances that they will be allowed to cross Serb lines.

Sarajevo radio's correspondent in Gracko said shelling of the town, which has been under heavy attack for more than two weeks, was intense yesterday. There was infantry fighting on the outskirts of the town as the helicopters flouting the UN ban brought up the Serb reinforcements.

Western warships have stopped six ships and ordered them searched since operations to enforce an embargo on rump Yugoslavia began two days ago, the Italian navy said yesterday.

Owen urges visas for refugees

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

BRITAIN should issue temporary six-month visas to refugees from the former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, the European Community peace envoy said yesterday.

At the launch of the British office of Médecins sans Frontières, the emergency aid organisation, of which he is chairman, Lord Owen said: "The further away a country, the less pressure you have to take refugees on a permanent basis. Temporary visas are very helpful for people in the immediate aftermath of events."

He said Germany was the only European country to have been helpful in its dealings with refugees. Speaking of the recent postponement of the evacuation of Bosnian prisoners and civilian refugees detained in northern Bosnia, Lord Owen said: "I found it both embarrassing and wholly unjustified that we were unable to take detainees out of detention centres because there were not enough commitments from third party countries to take them. Detainees have got to be found places."

He denied that too much attention was being paid to the suffering in Bosnia at the expense of that in Somalia, saying: "In the scale of human misery Somalia rates higher than Bosnia. But in the scale of human perdition I think Bosnia rates higher, because of this dangerous strategy of 'ethnic cleansing'."



Muscovites find democracy a bore and carry on queuing

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE elderly cleaner, shining the corridors of the Kremlin's Palace of Congress before a thousand people's deputies tramp through it in a week's time, was unimpressed by the prospect. "They'll come from the provinces on expensive-paid trips and sit on their fat bottoms listening to the sound of their own voices, just like the old days," was her unflattering, if accurate, preview of the proceedings of Russia's highest legislative body.

The machinations of congress, the convocation of 1,000 deputies from local soviets (district councils) across Russia, may dominate the whispered conversations in the corridors of Kremlin and parliament, and kept diplomats and journalists in a state of agitated expectation about the outcome of the hardliners' battle with the reformers over the pace of change, but most Russians seem thoroughly bored with the showdown before it has even begun.

The thrust and parry of democratic politics, which had the nation glued to its television screens a year ago, now bores and confuses the nation which regards politics as the clash of Titans over their heads. A reader's letter to *Moskovsky Komsomolskiy*, the mass-circulation paper, summarised the ennui: "Why the excitement? This congress is as far away from the people as was its communist predecessor. Will any single deputy stop and think about the effects of their braying on the ordinary people's lives? No, it's all pacts and plots and cabals, like the tsar's court, and the peasants and proles can rot as far as they care."

Even President Yeltsin, the populist, is valued these days more for his courageous stand against last year's coup and his personal charisma than his reformist aims. The element of hero worship in Russia's relationship with him has faded.

"I remember when he used to take the trolley bus home and go to the markets to

argue about prices and quality of the produce," said the cleaner. "These days he's whisked up the centre of the road in a Zil, just like Brezhnev and Gorbachev, and he wouldn't know the price of sausage without consulting an adviser — and he'd have to ask his wife."

This is a winter of grim sobriety laced with bitter disappointment that the fruits of reform have not been quicker to ripen. As the rouble plunges and inflation rises, old women and young, harassed mothers scramble among the rotting fruit and vegetables at street markets in search of a bargain. The Moscow health authorities recently clamped down on illegal traders selling out-of-date meat but were hindered by an angry crowd, shouting: "Rather old meat than no meat." Daily grind leaves little time or appetite for political debate.

The mixture of anger and passivity in the face of politics is fed by the recognition that parliament and congress, the country's two executives, are hangovers from the old days

(they were both elected before the coup). With no main elections for four years, it seems a waste of energy for anyone, other than those few citizens with strong political convictions or personal interests, to concern themselves with these bodies.

More and more, the phrase "Bring back Brezhnev" is heard. Hardly anyone means it, but anger and weariness are enough to blind perceptions of the past. The entire milk delivery to the supermarkets of the northern suburbs was sour yesterday morning because the distributors had run out of petrol and, not having budgeted for the recent price rise, found they could not afford to send out the fleet of lorries to the farms to pick up new supplies.

Not that anyone saw fit to announce the fact. They let the mothers queue in the freezing grey dawn for the usual hour or so before work before somebody at the head of the queue discovered what had happened and a wave of outrage swept the gathering.

"This would never have happened when there were stable petrol prices," shouted one woman. "Was the milk ever sour under Brezhnev? Never."

"Reforms? Where are they?" said another customer, her face twisted in a permanent grimace which bore testimony to too many disappointments like this.

What should she tell the politicians of congress if she had the chance? She laughed harshly at the very idea. "I'd tell them to save their long arguments about reforms," she said. "Reforms mean you can have a big car if you're in the mafia. Reforms mean hard-currency shops for a handful of people who have it. I'm a factory worker. I'll never have a big car or dollars, so reform for me will be when the milk isn't sour, that's all."

This is the first in a series of articles by Anne McElvoy looking towards Tuesday's annual meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow

French warship docks in Vietnam

HANOI A French warship sailed into Haiphong yesterday, the first French warship to dock there since the Viet Minh ended French colonial rule in 1954, and the first Western military vessel to visit Vietnam since 1975.

The frigate *Nivose* docked at a three-day courtesy call. Vietnamese officials said. Haiphong was the headquarters of French naval forces in Indochina until they withdrew after the defeat at Dien Bien Phu.

Vietnam's communist leaders, who depended on Soviet military aid until the late 1980s, have opened low-level military contacts with France, and some non-communist Asian countries. Military attaches have arrived from France, Indonesia and Thailand, the first from non-communist countries. (Reuters)

Credits halted

WASHINGTON The US agriculture department suspended Russia from its food credit programme for being \$10.9 million behind on a payment. It was hoped Russia would soon pay and be reinstated in the programme. (Reuters)

UN aides shot

PHNOM PENH Three members of a UN electoral registration team were wounded by gunfire, one seriously, in an ambush in northwestern Cambodia, the worst attack yet on the organisation's peacekeepers in the country, a UN official said. (Reuters)

TV chief sacked

MOSCOW President Yeltsin dismissed Yegor Yakovlev, head of Channel One, Russia's main television channel, after complaints from regional leaders that he had allowed reports too sympathetic to separatist movements to be broadcast.

Policy change

AMMAN General Joseph Hoar, the new head of US Central Command, was this week a guest at the royal palace, marking a complete reversal of the anti-Western stance taken by Jordan during the Gulf war. Coca-Cola is on sale after a 40-year ban.

Road opened

MOZAMBIQUE The opening of a highway for the first time in 12 years has marked a step forward for the eight-week-old peace agreement ending the 17-year civil war in Mozambique. The road links Maputo, the capital, with Beira, 680 miles away.

Task aborted

MIAMI The *Miami Herald* said Israel had planned to kill Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, a leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah group, but the plan had been aborted when five soldiers of an elite unit were killed during a training accident. (Reuters)

Bhutto feted

LABORE More than 10,000 people turned out to cheer Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan opposition leader, when she arrived here yesterday on a crusade tooust the government. "This is the people's verdict," shouted Bhutto. "They have won." (Reuters)

Relatives held

LONDON The Indonesian authorities are reported to have arrested several relatives of Xanana Gusman, the East Timor resistance leader who has been held incommunicado since he was arrested in Dili, the capital of Timor, last week.

Canton to plane h mountain killing

firebuffs Patten's proposals

Peking drops in sell China by

A case for colour in court robes

A new collection of clothes for women lawyers in a famous legal outfitters heralds a sea change in the attitude of courts to advocates' dress, Rosie Millard reports

The question of what to wear at work should almost be an anachronism for the working woman in these emancipated days. Women enter board meetings in platform shoes, leather miniskirts and emerald green jackets; in some cases, the higher the position, the more risqué the outfit. Except for the legal profession, that is.

Female lawyers, particularly those appearing in court, have always seemed to have a harder job with their wardrobes than their male counterparts. Veronica Ramsden, an Inner Temple barrister, says: "It is the only profession to demand a uniform and then not hand one out." Trousers are forbidden: sombre colours, which for all but the most confident of advocates means black, must always be worn in court. And any working woman who can pop out in the lunch hour and pick up a T-shirt at The Gap or a pair of earrings at Miss Selfridge, should have some pity for those stuck in the Inns and courts of the City. The place abounds with shops for men's suits, shirts and cufflinks; ask for the female equivalent, and you will be directed to the Circle Line or shown the dazzling display of tights at the Moorgate branch of Boots.

Until today, that is, when the legal outfitters Ede & Ravenscroft launch their Ladies Collection. Ede & Ravenscroft, of Chancery Lane, London, who have been clothing male lawyers for generations, have realised that as far as court dressing goes, women are a force to be reckoned with: last year, women accounted for nearly 50 per cent of admissions to the Roll.

"I was terrified when I had to buy my first suit," Ms Ramsden says. "You want to look like a non-person. You are so confused that you just wear what you are told to. You see it every year as soon as the women go into pupillage, they get into dreadful sensible suits from BHS. People are frightened to make statements about their personality." She feels that the new collection at Ede & Ravenscroft, whose name instantly adds a stamp of establishment approval, might dispel this problem. "The suits are well put together, and you can just lift the whole thing off the peg and buy

it," she says. "But the great thing is that it's near. The last thing you want is to have to go into the West End for clothes after work."

Gloria Williams, a buyer for Ede & Ravenscroft, feels the new collection might encourage female lawyers to start pushing for a more relaxed stance. "Women might become a bit more upfront, start wearing navy in court, and so on. If the trouser suit becomes a real fashion item, judges will stop associating them with jeans and realise they mean smart dressing." The collection includes silk



Cover-up: court wear

scarves, earrings, tights, and a range of wraps and mohair jumpers, presumably to attract women who don't work in court or lawyers who wander in looking for something to wear at the weekend. And instead of battling on through the night in the whole black and white court number, female barristers and solicitors can simply pick up one of the evening blouses in cotton or silk by former solicitor turned designer Madeleine Hamilton, and change, straight from work, from office white to a glamorous number in purple, coral or cream with pearl buttons or silk frills.

And for female barristers, hitherto faced with a choice of only a dark A-line skirt from BHS or its equivalent from Jaeger, the rows of medium-priced, short jackets with gilt buttons and slim skirts from new, young British designers are a welcome introduction. Even the constant theme of black has been subtly evaded: Bella Freud's classic suit, including a waistcoat, two styles of skirt and a pair of matching trousers, is in chalk-grey with a faint pin-stripe.

It is a canny move: the thought of spending almost all your working hours dressed as if you were at a funeral has always been a fairly daunting prospect to many female lawyers' attempts at insurrection range from Baroness Mallett QC, nearly ten years ago, who tried to claim tax relief on her "dull and dowdy" clothes, to a trainee barrister this year who dared to wear something other than black to a pupillage (pre-Bar training) interview. "She's very bright, however," says Judith Butler, a fellow trainee. "You have to be pretty good to take that kind of risk."



Judicious choice: Judith Butler models a skirt by Bella Freud and shirt by Madeleine Hamilton

Clearly, stepping out of line is something which few women at the Bar, particularly newcomers, attempt to do. "I once wore trousers to lunch, and I was told to go and change them, even though they were pretty smart," says Miss Butler, who owns one black suit. "I think all this constant wearing of black suits is a bit much, frankly. You have to wear them all the time. For everything. Men just have to wear dark suits and can get away with coloured shirts and ties. It's a bit off."

It has to be said that Ede & Ravenscroft's more typical customers seemed slightly bemused by the relative importance of the new collection. "I don't want to express myself

in my clothing," says John Deby, QC. "A degree of sobriety in court is a good thing, don't you think? When one is working, one is working. Isn't one?" Anthony Scrivener QC, a former chairman of the Bar Council, "couldn't care less" what women wear in court as long as it is the same as the men. "You should not be able to try to influence the judge by what you wear. Your words are more important than what you look like. People are supposed to listen to what you have to say. We don't want to get like America, where advocates have turned up wearing green waistcoats and pink shoes."

A recent survey of barristers by the Criminal Bar Association found that

the majority of both sexes were in favour of keeping their gowns rather than allowing "Armani advocacy".

However, the new women's collection, with its gently draped shirts, elegant skirts and (heaven forbid) trouser suits, may have begun a sea change in court apparel more weighty than anyone suspects. "I might freak everyone out and start wearing navy," Miss Butler says. "I don't want to draw too much attention to myself, as I will be representing a client but I think you could have more liberty with things like blouses, for instance. I would like to wear a wig and gown just once, have a photo, have my Mum in tears, and then get rid of it for ever."

Lean look for lean times

When I met Corinne Day at a private view in the Fulham Road last week, she looked around wide-eyed and said she wasn't quite sure what this was or why she was there. It's a feeling she's going to have to get used to.

What accounts for Ms Day's new-found popularity — suddenly, she's being invited everywhere — is that high-fashion society has just cottoned on to the fact that she is the photographer for *The Face* who, as far back as two years ago, discovered Kate Moss, the Croylon, wait-turned-supermodel.

Ms Day looks like an ordinary girl that you might see out and about in Chelsea — if the year were 1972. She was wearing a black maxi coat, sailor's hipster bellbottoms, black skinny-rib jumper, floppy cream shirt, her long wispy hair parted in the middle and that wan, naive look that is the speciality of young London girls these days — just as it was in 1972.

Her story is so emblematic of international fashion's periodic need for a young London blood transfusion, so full of echoes and unconscious poignancy that it began to make my hair stand on end.

Just back from a trip to New York — she had taken her granny along for the ride — Ms Day could scarcely believe what had happened. The call came — the call from *US Vogue* for which all fashion photographers wait and pray. Anna Wintour, the magazine's editor, sent a big black limo to whisk her to *Vogue* headquarters. Granny came too, and made Ms Day take out her camera to snap her standing beside the car. "The best thing," Ms Day said, "is that my granny finally believes."

The irony is that times, transatlantic flights and designer drinks parties are not Ms Day's milieu: that is exactly her point. What makes her so right, so of the moment — and so madly desirable to the fashion establishment — is the fact that she is the perfect recessionary photographer. One of the lines that tripped innocently out of her mouth was enough to make a fashion back stagger. "I think it's beautiful not to have money," she said. "Not having money makes you use your imagination more."

One can see why this attitude might strike Anna Wintour — who last year shelled out an alleged \$2 million for the services of the photographer Steven Meisel — as refreshing. But the attraction of the new British cheapness doesn't explain everything. After half a decade of bleeding itself on glitz, superstar models and grown-up glamour, fashion has finally seemed itself to swallow the antidote.

For seasons, it has been



SARAH MOWER

looking around for something that tastes right. Then, right on cue, along comes Kate Moss, with her mousy hair and poor-girl clothes — looking so sweetly anti-everything. Bingo! She reminds the baby-boomer generation — now the oldies in power — of their own youth. Bingo! She's also from England, the birthplace of all authentic youth movements. Hey, they start asking — are there any more like you at home?

Of course there are. Not just Corinne Day, but dozens, maybe hundreds, of pale, under-developed English girls who all dress in falling-apart clothes that are the despair of their mothers. "We call it Tramp," Ms Day said. "The Americans call it Grunge, but we've been dressing like this — in holey jumpers and second hand clothes for ages."

Even though her latest New York trip coincided with the showing of the US collections, in which her friend, Kate starred, Ms Day chose not to attend. "I don't like fashion shows," she said, in that dreamy, passive-aggressive sort of way. "I'd rather be downtown in the second hand shops."

How long Corinne Day will be able to keep up the *noti me rangers* thing about money and high fashion remains to be seen. For the moment, the fashion establishment does not mind, because it is taking the gamble that among her English peer group, Ms Day — who dislikes working with models and finds something "beautiful" about girls who don't know how to pose — will grow a whole culture of little Mosses for international consumption.

You look at her, and get the oddest, optimistic sensation that this could be a case of one of the better bits of our history repeating itself. Could this girl photographer turn out to be the David Bailey of her generation, in the vanguard of a whole movement of young British talent that will seize world attention and presage a revival in national confidence? Maybe. But you look at her, and start worrying, too.

Bright lights at the end of the sleeve

Wrists are aglitter with the cufflink back in fashion — for men and women

There was a time in the late Renaissance when men wore most of the jewels: Henry VIII was so covered in them you could hardly see any fabric underneath. Jewels to him meant power and privilege. But ever since then, jewellery for men has gone in and out of fashion. While women have been grabbing all the limelight of late with flamboyant and confident jewels, the fickle tide of trends seems to be turning now, and men are starting to get more of an ornamental look-in.

As long as you are not going in for Grunge this winter, cufflinks for men and women seem to be the hottest jewels in town. You can view the whole gamut of cufflink design at an exhibition at Sandra Cronan (18 Burlington Arcade, London W1, December 2-24). The exhibition, which shows cufflinks from their virtual beginnings to the present day, is based on a superb private collection of about 160 pairs put together by a discerning collector over the last 20 years.

The story of cufflinks is still largely uncharted territory. It is most likely they were first worn in the late 17th century when men's clothes underwent a drastic change, initiated by Charles II. The doublet was replaced by a long waistcoat worn with a coat over it. Dress started to become simpler, and lace was eventually replaced at cuff and neck by



Off the cuff: items from the "Cufflinks Through the Ages" exhibition, which has one 17th century pair that may have belonged to Charles II

jewels. The earliest pair of cufflinks in the exhibition date from this time, about 1670 to 1700, and although we cannot be absolutely certain, they are possibly royal jewels and historically extremely valuable. Beneath a slice of faceted rock crystal is a gold monogram of crossed "C"s beneath a royal crown, suggesting the initials of Charles II and his Queen, Catherine of Braganza, whom he married in 1662.

By the early 19th century the gentleman's rather ruffled outfit had given way to functional simplicity. Jewels too were toned down and since then men's jewellery has remained mostly functional. It was not until the mid to late 19th century that the shirt and cuff took its present form and most of the cufflinks in the exhibition, and on the market in general, date from this time. The most appealing and in-

ventive were made from 1910 to 1930. The exhibition also offers some dapper dress sets: the superbly crafted glossy Edwardian or Art Deco sets of cufflinks and shirt studs for evening wear, first introduced with the dinner jacket in the 1880s.

Like tiepins, cufflinks offer an acceptably manly outlet for humour, fantasy or sheer love of decoration. They also make ideal presents, especially if chosen to reflect a hobby or passion, like chess or train spotting, drinking or gambling.

The versatility of goldwork is a strong theme in the exhibition — everything from the smoothest, plainest mar gold slices to elaborately chased neo-Gothic dragons or classical Bacchic masks dripping with grapes. American tycoons being snappy dressers there are lots of decorative

American examples, including several by Tiffany & Co.

Enamels gave cufflinks intense colour, from ruby red hearts to glossy bottle green ovals embedded with diamonds. Enamel was a favourite vehicle for Edwardian whimsy, like the pair in the form of playing cards, for the poker fanatic. Sporting and particularly horsey themes have been popular in men's jewellery since the 1860s. The craze for *bijoux hipiques* was originally a British obsession which caught on in France, particularly after the Grand Prix de Paris was run at Longchamps for the first time in 1857. The most intriguing sporting jewels are the reverse crystal intaglios, made up of a miniature painted scene carved into the underside of a smooth domed piece of rock crystal, so

it looks embedded in a glassy cocoon.

Evocative and stylish cufflinks from the 1920s and 1930s reflect the time when the great jewel houses catered to the constant search for novelty and the frantic affluence of the modern man. Kaleidoscopes of colour were created by coloured stones or enamels, while the cool mid-1920s black and white vogue is handsomely reflected in platinum, onyx and diamond cufflinks.

After the war cufflinks were worn less often, being largely reserved for formal occasions. Now after the bland stylism of the 1980s, jewels are becoming more personal, and cufflinks are becoming more decorative and elegant again. They can be a good way to dip into the work of artist-jewelers, as is shown by the magical, narrative work of

Kevin Coates which brings the exhibition up to date.

Cobra and Bellamy sell one-off pairs by goldsmith Barbara Beragnoli, in silver and applied 24 carat gold, with a limitless choice of stones from fruity tourmalines to milky moonstones from about £340, as well as original 1930s gold plated and enamel examples at only £20. Irina Laski's Fanfare gold-plated silver cufflinks, can be found at Bruce Oldfield and Browns for £110 to £120.

Next January, Christian Lacroix, a man passionate about jewels, launches a range of men's cufflinks in typically opulent gilt metal, in his favourite themes: plump and sculptured crosses, dynamic sunbursts and the Arlesian bull's head.

VIVIENNE BECKER
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Jeremy Laurance reports on a new foundation to rectify our lamentable ignorance of the human brain

That grey area inside the skull

Most people do not have the faintest idea how to look after their brains. Few know which warning signs to watch out for or what can be done when things go wrong. Yet the brain is the most delicate organ in the body and the one most prone to serious damage, despite its protective shell. Neurological disorders are the commonest cause of disability in Britain.

Ignorance about the brain is in striking contrast to the national alarm over heart disease. While chest pain as a warning sign of a heart attack is almost universally familiar, few can recognise the tell-tale symptoms of a stroke — the cause of one in ten of all deaths in Britain — and many do not even know that it occurs in the head.

A common misconception is that a stroke is a condition of middle and old age. Some types of stroke target younger people. Sub-arachnoid haemorrhage, in which the arteries leading to the brain rupture, strikes 8,000 people a year, most of them between 30 and 60. Arteriovenous malformations, abnormalities of the blood vessels in the brain, are the commonest cause of spontaneous haemorrhage in children and sufferers have an average age of 35.

Today a new charity, the British Brain and Spine Foundation (BBSF), is launched to highlight the disorders which can afflict the brain, and to raise funds for research. While campaigns on heart disease are as common as hot breakfasts, until a generation ago the brain had been neglected since the time of Hippocrates, when it was dismissed as an organ for producing phlegm.

Today surgeons using microscopes can operate deep within the brain and new techniques are being devised to treat damaged parts with X-rays that eliminate the need for surgery.

Neither the public nor many doctors are aware of these advances or of some of the most basic facts about the brain. Yet more than 100,000 Britons suffer strokes every year and one million attend casualty with head injuries, of whom 95 per cent are seen by general physicians with no specialist expertise.

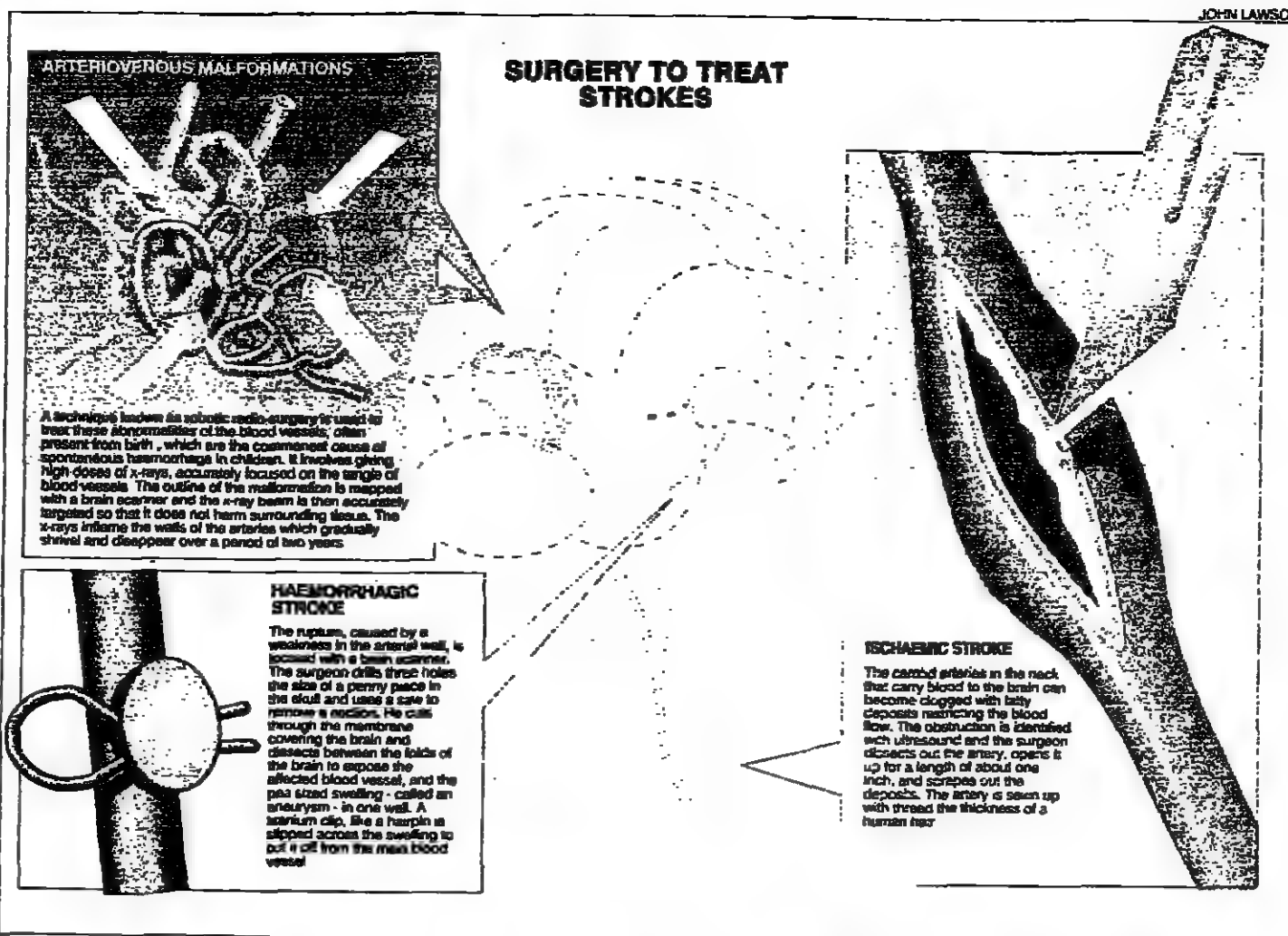
Of more than 16,000 hospital specialists in Britain, there are 170 neurologists and 110 neurosurgeons, a lower proportion per head of population and per hundred doctors than in any other industrialised country.

Peter Hamlyn, a consultant neurosurgeon at St Bartholomew's hospital in London, conceived the idea of an organisation on the lines of the respected British Heart Foundation to promote research on the brain. The youngest brain surgeon in the country when he was appointed a consultant at St Bartholomew's three years ago at the age of 32, he has raised £42,000 to prepare for today's launch of the BBSF, which has the backing of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons.

"Diseases of the nervous system are the most common to kill and maim," he says. "They are not rare, they are not confined to the elderly and there are treatments which are not dangerous and do not leave people as vegetables. Amazing advances have been made in recent years because the complexities of the nervous system are only now being unravelled."

One of the commonest disorders is a stroke, caused by a blockage or rupture of the blood vessels. Stroke affects up to one in five of our population and causes 68,000 deaths a year. Britain has the fifth highest stroke rate of the industrialised nations, yet the condition is preventable, like heart disease, through eating a healthy diet and taking exercise. High blood pressure is the main risk

'Diseases of the nervous system are the most common to kill and maim'



factor but evidence from the United States, where the death rate has fallen every year since 1973, shows it can be successfully prevented.

Surgery for strokes is crude but growing in effectiveness. Where the damage is from a blockage — an infarctive stroke — surgeons can open up the carotid artery in the neck and scoop out the fatty deposits on the walls which cause it to narrow and make it more prone to blockages by blood clots.

The operation is now performed at St Bartholomew's only on patients whose arteries are narrowed by at least 70 per cent and show warning signs of a stroke, such as transient tingling on one side of the body or loss of speech. It has been shown almost to halve the risk of a recurrence.

Sub-arachnoid haemorrhages (those underneath the arachnoid membrane, one of the membranes within the brain) can also now be treated in a complex operation that involves removing a large piece of the skull and opening up a passage-way deep within the folds of the brain to expose the affected blood vessel with a pea-sized swelling — called an aneurysm — in one wall. The swelling is the result of a weakness in the wall which can be repaired by placing a clip across the

RECOGNISING THE WARNING SIGNS

ABOUT 25,000 people a year in Britain have minor strokes known as transient ischaemic attacks. One in ten will go on to have a major stroke within a year and some may be prevented if the cause can be identified and the damage repaired. The main symptoms are:

- Transient tingling on one side of the body
- Loss of power in one limb or on one side of the body leading to partial paralysis
- Loss of speech or slurred speech. Some sufferers find they cannot understand what other people are saying and use incorrect words themselves or begin talking unintelligible nonsense
- Faints or fits in a previously healthy adult
- A "thunderclap" headache, described by sufferers as like being hit on the back of the head with a hammer

swelling to isolate it from the main blood vessel.

For patients suffering from arteriovenous malformations (those of the arteries and veins) a technique is now available that can be performed remotely, eliminating the need for an operation, and is almost free of side effects. Known as robotic radio-surgery, it involves giving high doses of X-rays, accurately focused on the tangle of

blood vessels. The X-rays inflame the walls of the arteries which then gradually shrivel and disappear over a period of two years. Latest results show that the technique can cure two thirds of the smaller tangles (less than three centimetres across) without the need for surgery. The technique can also be used to treat brain tumours.

Drug treatment after a stroke has cut deaths from some complica-

tions by as much as 80 per cent and advances in surgical techniques could save thousands of lives if they were more widely available.

The biggest challenge is to replace the brain cells damaged by a head injury or stroke. Brain transplants using cells from the brains of foetuses have been tried in a few patients suffering from Parkinson's disease but with unproven effects. Scientists at University College, London, are now developing techniques to transplant cells from other parts of the body to the brain, overcoming the problem of rejection.

Nerve cells taken from the intestines of rats and grown in tissue culture revert to their embryonic state. By the addition of growth factors, the embryonic material can then be made to develop into a different type of cell. For people with spinal injuries the technique has the potential to make new cells grow across the spinal cord. The research is still at an early stage and it will be years before it can be applied to patients. But the notion of growing a new brain is about to step out of the pages of H.G. Wells into the neurobiologist's lab.

Donations to the British Brain and Spine Foundation may be made on 071-404 7777.

Surgery becomes safer

At least 1,300 people a year have benign brain tumours of the kind suffered by Julia Somerville, the ITN newsreader, who is to speak about her experience for the first time at the launch today of the British Brain and Spine Foundation.

Thirty years ago surgery to remove the growth carried a 20 per cent risk of death. Today a combination of brain scanners, operating microscopes, special anaesthetics and lasers have made the surgery much safer.

The most common benign brain tumour is the meningioma, a growth arising on the covering of the brain. Meningiomas account for nearly 20 per cent of all brain tumours and they usually occur between the ages of 40 and 60. Women are affected more often than men.

Brain tumours are usually detected because the patient starts having fits or experiences other, smaller neurological changes such as blurred vision, a progressive numbness or loss of speech. Over a period of weeks, patients may experience a gradual loss of muscular power in one part of their body or a personality change.

The growth of the tumour increases the pressure inside the brain which presses against the skull, causing headaches, lethargy, nausea and vomiting. Often the headache caused by a tumour is present on waking and lasts longer each day as the tumour grows. Headaches are, however, exceedingly common, and brain tumours rare, affecting about one in 20,000 Britons. Doctors will usually be able to identify those patients with tumours by close questioning but the matter can only finally be resolved by a brain scan.

A new drug called Temozolomide has brought new hope for the 3,000 Britons a year who have malignant brain tumours (brain cancer). Although still undergoing clinical trials, its early promise is so great that it is now being prescribed on "compassionate" grounds to named patients for whom all other treatments have failed.

Among children, brain tumours are the commonest solid tumours. The safety of surgery has so improved that fewer than 1 per cent of those operated on die or suffer additional damage.

Lucy Holland was nine years old when she had a massive brain haemorrhage, or stroke. Her mother Di Reynolds, 44, who owns a beauty salon at New Milton, Hampshire, recalls how she was leading Lucy on her pony on the day it happened. "It came out of the blue. She had never had any eye problems or dizziness. One minute she was sitting on her pony and the next I looked round and she was crying, saying her head and eyes hurt. Her arms and legs were thrashing about in pain. I asked her father to take her straight to Lymington hospital and from there we were taken with a police escort to the neurosurgical unit at Southampton."

"She had an operation lasting four or five hours. It was the cells on the right side of her brain which were damaged, so her left side was completely paralysed. Afterwards she was in a coma and was tube-fed and wired up for weeks. When she did open her eyes it wasn't really Lucy. She went through an aggressive stage, which apparently is quite normal. They were not able to tell us why it

Lucy Holland is slowly recovering her faculties

went at that particular moment; it could have happened in her sleep or when she was a baby. It was like a time bomb waiting to go off, and they are still trying to find out why it happened. "Although she has a bit of a limp, she is walking and running again but needs to be nudged to use her left arm. She can't tell the difference between fabrics or hot and cold water with her left hand, but they say that might improve. She doesn't see anything coming from the left-hand side because the nerves in her eyes are permanently damaged. If she does a jigsaw, she will leave out the top left-hand corner and she starts writing in the middle of a page. But she has picked up on her schooling. She passed her common entrance and she doesn't have any speech or memory problems."

"She did some psychological education tests recently and was fine at reading, writing and maths but was told she would probably have difficulty with maps, art and design although she has designed a Christmas card for the foundation."

"She still gets headaches and dizzy spells and has nightmares when she dreams at her face, at the mask she had to wear after the operation. She also has to sleep in a cot with sides because she thrashes about so much. She's dying to get on her pony and has been on a leading rein but I don't think I could ever let her ride on her own."

"She was a very gentle, very quiet child, barely naughty enough to be called normal, an angelic little thing, and I didn't think she had a competitive bone in her body until we saw the way she was determined to walk to the loo. I think she has slightly less patience than she had before, but since she used to have more than her share I don't think it is noticeable to anyone else."

● Interview by Heather Kirby

Quick diagnosis is the key

The story of Michael Watson, the boxer who suffered brain damage that has left him severely disabled, illustrates the importance of getting treatment in the critical first hour after a head injury if the damage is to be minimised. His direct injury was relatively trivial in his fight with Chris Eubank in September 1991. He was not even knocked out when the referee stopped the fight. Moments later he collapsed with a blood clot on his brain. It was the secondary injury, the blood clot, that did the damage by cutting off the supply of oxygen to his brain. He was transferred to St Bartholomew's hospital in London where Peter Hamlyn performed emergency surgery. He spent three weeks in intensive care and was in a coma for a month. More than a year later he is still in the neuro-rehabilitation unit with continuing severe problems. "While nobody is to blame and everyone involved did all they could, had it been possible to perform his operation sooner he may well have enjoyed complete recovery," Mr Hamlyn says.

Little can be done for head injury victims who are severely injured at the time of the blow. But many, like Watson, go on to develop a serious secondary injury caused by a blood clot or by swelling of the brain. Much

The first hour after a head injury is crucial for limiting any damage



Blum: "I was very sharp with words, now I grope for them"

more can now be done for victims of injury of this type, provided people recognise the warning signs — a headache accompanied by nausea and vomiting or loss of vision — and act on them by seeking immediate medical help.

Jeffrey Blum, a 39-year-old ship broker, was a victim of the IRA bomb which blew up the Baltic Exchange in London the day after the general election last April. His right arm was blown off, his skull

cracked open and he lost 7/8ths of his blood. "But I was found by a doctor who happened to know I needed to go to Bart's [St Bartholomew's hospital] and instructed the ambulancemen accordingly, so I was lucky," he says.

He had a four-hour brain operation. "The next thing I remember was nine days later and it was Easter Sunday," Mr Blum says. "I am suffering from short-term memory loss. I was very sharp with words,

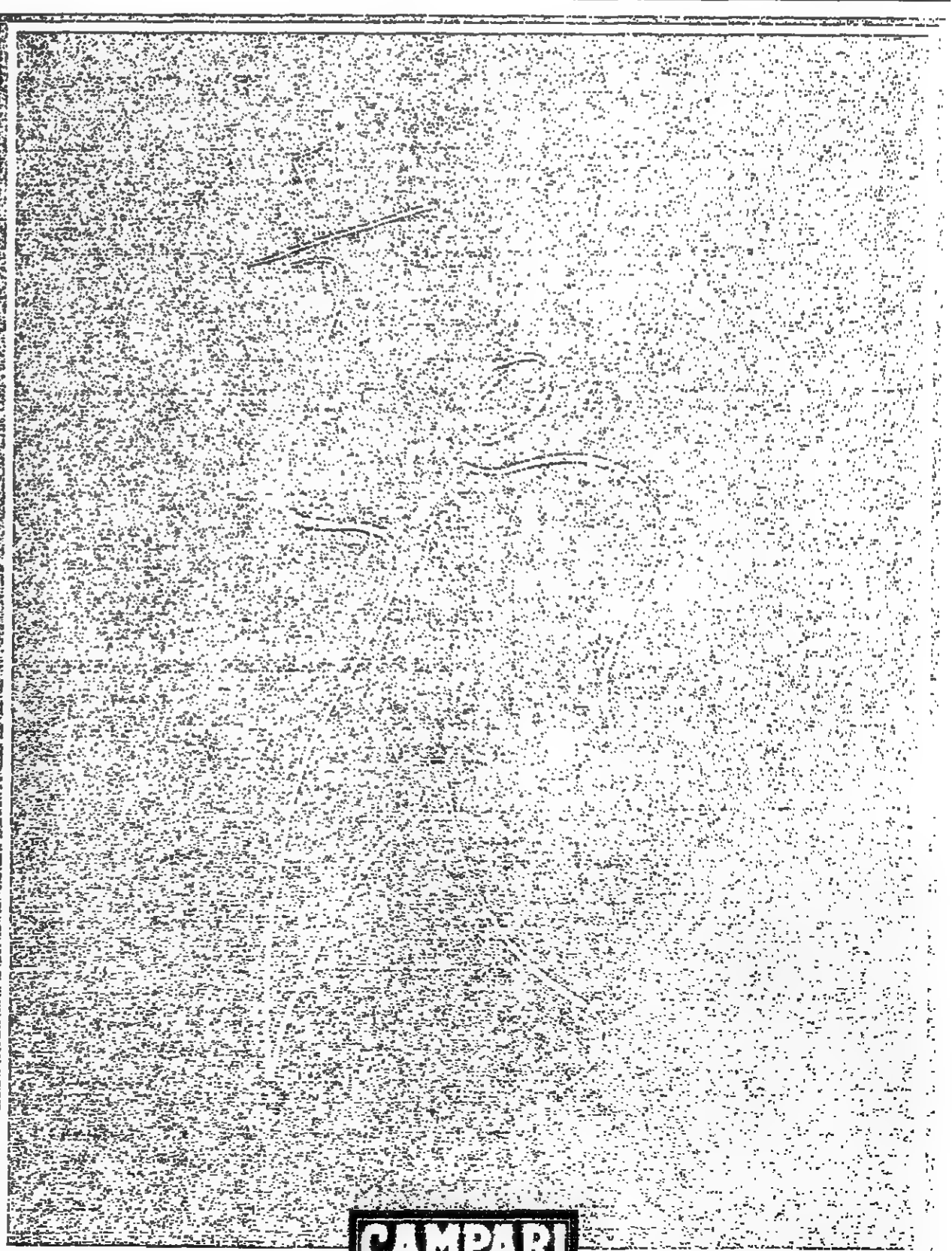
now I grope for them, which is frustrating, although I am told it will get better."

"I had a major fit after it happened and now have to take six pills a day to stop me having any more, that is beside the hundreds of painkillers. I don't think my character has changed. What has changed is my attitude to life. I wouldn't argue about something trivial now."

At least one million Britons go to accident and emergency departments each year with head injuries but more than eight out of ten are sent home. The task for the non-specialist doctors who assess them is to decide which are likely to develop secondary problems. The scarcity of specialists makes the job of disseminating new techniques and discoveries difficult.

New drugs have been developed to reduce the swelling of the brain but they are toxic. By measuring the pressure inside the head the dose can be adjusted to obtain the maximum effect for the minimum dose.

The result has been a big fall in deaths following severe head injuries, from a half to a third over the last 20 years. Yet there has been no increase in the proportion who recover only to a persistent vegetative state (10-15 per cent).



CAMPARI

A SPLASH OF COLOUR.

Campari and Orange. One part Campari, two parts Orange Juice, Ice and a dash of Orange.

مكتبة الأصيل



Bryan Appleyard

Any fool can bandy the word "excellence", and any bureaucrat can collect the licence fee

Internally the BBC is in the midst of an anxious, paranoid phase of rare intensity even by the frantic standards of the broadcasting *de-monde*. Staff fear for their jobs and their freedom. For months there has been talk of a John Birt "hidden agenda" which involves thousands more redundancies than those already announced and still more ruthless editorial control. And for years there has been the suspicion that the hardest free-market wing of the Tory party would have its way and the corporation would be abolished.

The worst of this paranoia has been self-induced. The ham-fisted transfer of power from Michael Checkland to Mr Birt left the BBC leaderless and tongue-tied. Even long before that mess, nobody within the corporation seemed capable of formulating a serious defence of the institution against the right-wing threats of the Eighties. Mr Birt should not quickly be allowed to forget his own mumbled and anaemic response to Rupert Murdoch's attack on British broadcasting at the Edinburgh Television Festival. Finally, in its upper ranks, the BBC has been damagingly ambivalent even to beneficial change. When the first programmes from independent producers were being broadcast, it was routine to hear whispered bitching from executives in spite of the fact that many shows were manifestly improved.

The curious irony of this state of affairs is that, politically, the BBC is in its strongest position for at least a decade. The total abolitionists have lost. In part they have lost the intellectual case — the closer people have looked at broadcasting, the clearer it has become that the destruction of a 70-year-old tradition would, now more than ever, be mere vandalism. But, perhaps more importantly, abolition has become politically unthinkable. The present Tories now want, above all, a quiet life and that can hardly be achieved through the turmoil of an almost certainly unpopular broadcasting revolution. A Thatcher handbagging is one thing, a Major muddle is quite another.

Yesterday's green paper with its "on the one hand and on the other" style reflects this political change. A "great broadcasting debate" is being promoted, but few can now doubt that, in the end, the BBC will survive the process. Even the chippy, aggressive David Mellor is signalling that, and his successor, the embellished Peter Brooke, is hardly likely to prove more radical.

Far more important, however, will be the BBC's response, expected later this week. This response will not of itself be startling. It will cover familiar ground with loosely-defined terms like "excellence" and it will insist upon the need for an organisation, funded by a universal, non-progressive tax, to deliver this excellence across the whole spectrum of broadcast taste. Good game shows will be as important as reliable news and grand opera; one audience cannot be disenfranchised in favour of another. From this quality base the BBC will insist upon its role as the disseminator and defender of standards throughout the community of broadcasters — keeping them all pure, as Michael Grade put it. But any fool can use the word "excellence" and any bureaucrat can collect a licence fee. The real problem with all such sentiments and justifications is their credibility and the man whose credibility is at stake is John Birt.

His first test is internal. The demoralisation of the BBC staff over the last two years has been profound. Mr Birt has had much to do with this, although he can fairly claim that it has been the fault of the transition procedure rather than anything he has done. As director general-elect his hands have been tied for too long. Nevertheless, his image within the BBC is poor. His activities within news and current affairs have generated accusations of cynicism and, as well as the jobs worries, he is suspected of having a further "hidden agenda" that involves lowering a little too enthusiastically to government.

Convincing internal doubters, especially in view of the fact that there are bound to be further, perhaps massive redundancies to generate more bitterness, will be essential but difficult. Unless "excellence" and "standards" can be made to mean something to producers, cameramen and cleaning ladies, the institutional defence of the corporation will remain as hollow as it has for the last decade.

And this leads to John Birt's wider external problem: how to arrive at any consensus of what constitutes excellence. The quality defence in modern broadcasting terms is far more slippery than it was in the days of Lord Reith. Today, the ultimate virtue of art is, along with the absolute value of journalistic freedom, one of the most potent orthodoxies among broadcasters. It is one of the value systems that has replaced the strict ethical and religious foundation of Reith. It is, for example, quite obvious that *Songs of Praise* is now a more marginal product of the corporate culture than *The Late Show*. Similarly *Panorama* would be defended more ferociously from within than would *Blue Peter*. This has nothing to do with ratings and nothing to do with any provable conception of the public good. It has everything to do with the mandarin certainties of broadcasters and with the fragmentation of our culture.

Birt's task is to rise above all this and instil a generally acceptable conception of excellence that would convince the arts and the religious, the journalists and the children that they were in safe hands, that this institution meant something. This is a colossal intellectual and management task made even more difficult by the fact that any such conception would have to be felt rather than defined. It might well be impossible, yet, as Browning would have said, the BBC's reach should exceed its grasp or what's a licence fee for?

Fifty years after the Beveridge report Peter Bayley recalls the complex creator of Britain's welfare state

A great man's human face

According to E.M. Forster, who was at prep school with William Beveridge, his friend's "sobriquet was 'goose'... I suppose for his long nose, down which tears sometimes dripped. He was a good deal teased at one time because he ate marmalade with porridge, and it was early realised that he was unusual... I became very fond of Will, who never showed me what of an alarming side he may have possessed."

However, a view of the alarming side of Beveridge prevails — and indeed more than alarming. Kingsley Martin wrote in the *New Statesman* and *Nation* of him as "a despot who resented criticism and could not tolerate opposition" and others have testified to ruthlessness and arrogance in achieving his ends, and to his riding roughshod over subordinates. But undergraduates of University College, Oxford, of which he was Master from 1937-1945 after his long period as director of LSE, found an utterly different person (though some of the fellows evidently did not).

I first met Beveridge when I was interviewed by him for a scholarship. The hair was con-

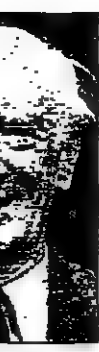
spicuously clean, a glossy white loose tangle, the blue eyes extraordinarily penetrating and at the same time full of brightness and glee, the complexion remarkably high, the nose indeed a goose-like beak. He immediately engaged me in what I can only call a friendly conversation about the writer George Meredith, by whom at that time I was entranced, and so, it turned out, by happy chance, was the Master.

Sir William wrote to my mother that the college had had no hesitation in offering me the Sidgwick Exhibition and he went on: "your son Peter writes very well, but he doesn't know how to think" and he was writing to her and to my headmaster urging them to persuade me to read not English but philosophy, politics and economics: that would teach me how to think.

The year was 1940 — February or March. Beveridge was much involved in public matters, in speaking and writing

and broadcasting on the need for a new socioeconomic attitude both to provide and sustain the war effort, and to prepare — already — for a juster and more equal society after victory. I still think it remarkable that he could yet be chairing interviews for scholarship and entrance to his college, and taking the trouble to write not one but two kindly letters to persuade a schoolboy to follow his recommendation about the choice of subject. No doubt the Master was right about this advice, but I declined and no more was said. Until I went up to Univ in October 1940.

On the first weekend before term began, I was crossing the front quadrangle when the Master emerged from the Radcliffe quad; tweed suit rather frayed at the cuffs (as in the



Beveridge: despot or kindly teacher?

college portrait of him), knees rather bent in a slow wavering walk, smiling under the great beak and the white hair rather ragged below the dark brown tangle. He came to a stop and in his rather cackling voice said: "Now don't tell me who you are. Don't tell me. I will tell you who you are. You are... you are..." (he was fighting to retrieve the information) "you're Peter Charles Bayley, and you are the Sidgwick Exhibitioner from the Crypt School, Gloucester... and you are a very obstinate fellow." Chuckles of triumph, almost like goose-gobbling. "A very obstinate fellow. Well, now, my dear boy, we are having some music in The Lodgings tomorrow night. Adila Fachiri is coming to play for us. Will you come across to

The Lodgings for music and have a little supper? There were a dozen or so undergraduates there and a few dons and others, and Beveridge welcomed us and "my dear-ed" us, the playing was thrilling, there were sandwiches and coffee afterwards and later some of us helped wash up.

Beveridge loved parties and recreation as much as he loved work and conversation. He gave much hospitality in The Lodgings, and there was always gusto and gaiety and some challenge.

I saw a lot of him after his retirement in 1954. I had come to love the now benign Beveridge. He retained a sort of boyishness and excitement, and his charm and tact could be consummate. One day I had a fairly recent former pupil of mine down for the day and took him into the common-room for lunch. Beveridge was already there, on his own. I took up my guest, the young V.S. Naipaul, not then very well-known and

perhaps a little overawed at the encounter, and introduced them. "My dear boy, how exceedingly nice to meet you; for any number of reasons, but chiefly of course because I'm an Indian too... No, dammit, I'm not. I'm a Pakistani — I was born in Rangpur." And we were off. Vidia completely captivated into confidence.

A final memory. Now very old and painfully lame, he lent on my arm as I helped him back to his flat after I had taken him into college to dine, as I did from time to time. It was a clear frosty night. He stopped outside the house, looked up at the night, clutched my arm more firmly and said: "My dear," (he was the last man I knew of the generation which could say "my dear" naturally to friends) "I have enjoyed myself so much. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to be back in the DOC" (a domestic Unit local appellation: "dear old coll"). "Oh dear," he paused and breathed in and out heavily. "Oh dear, I really haven't been human enough. I must try to be more human."

Professor Bayley is an honorary fellow of University College, Oxford.

Playing at soldiers in Bosnia

British lives are being put at risk by a cynical peace-keeping operation

Two images succeeded each other on the screen. One is of a woman screaming over her children as she is evacuated from a Bosnian village. Her husband must stay to fight for their home. The scene is heartrending and the camera duly lingers on her tears. Nor is this just the familiar pornography of grief. The reporter wants to make us angry: "When these people are asking, will something be done?"

The second image is the answer: British soldiers struggling to get an armoured car out of the Bosnian mud. This time the reporter is laconic. The Scimitar is useless for protection but is a symbol of Britain's "commitment". A few tons of aid will help a handful of people for a few more days of Serb siege. The snipers understandably view this as hostile. Sooner or later a soldier will get killed.

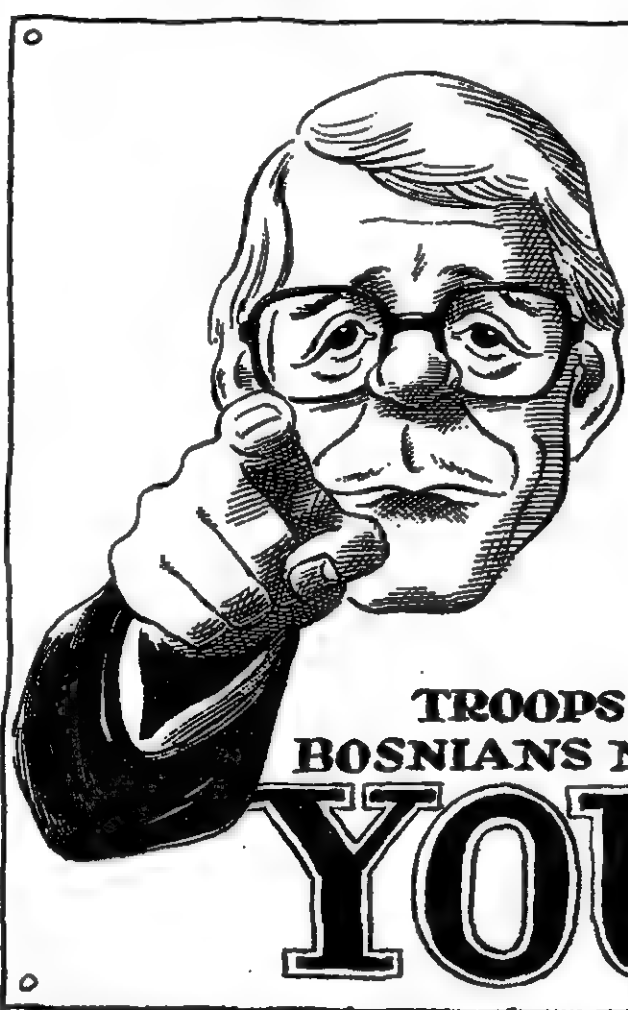
What conceivable British interest will be served by his death? No peace is being kept, no lives really saved. The only conclusion is cynical, that the second image is meant to allay the discomfort induced by the first. Whatever grief is accessible to a television camera, in Beirut or Kurdistan or Sarajevo, it must be accessible to British troops. Britain refuses to help the two million Yugoslav refugees. It must therefore do something promotable. Soldiers in action are politically glamorous. Immigrants are politically grim.

The British and UN operation in Bosnia is, as *The Times* correspondent reported on Monday, "doomed to failure". We are at the tail-end of a nasty civil war which the Serbs have all but won. The remaining Muslim settlements cover less than 30 per cent of the country and are sustained only by smuggled arms and the hope of outside intervention. The awful

question is how many more Bosnians must die before the reality of their plight is driven home? Turkey's prime minister implied on Monday that he might join an intervention force to "save" Sarajevo, threatening a blood-soaked denouement for that once charming city.

Yet ever more intervention is what intensive media coverage invites. *The New York Times*, bible of armchair interventionism, last week called for an escalation of the war in terms worthy of Randolph Hearst. It accused Europe of "cravenly shrinking from armed intervention". The gallant Bosnians were aroused. Sanctions were not enough. We must go to war... or... er... somebody must go to war.

Seeking to relieve the suffering of a foreign civil conflict is one thing. Sending soldiers to help one side or another, under whatever auspices or whatever rules of engagement, is madness. If there is any good they



can do, it is only by risking their lives. And whether or not they risk their lives, they are more likely to do harm.

In Bosnia, by seeking to sustain the losing side, however just its cause, interventionists merely prolong the agony. The first UN commander, General Lewis MacKenzie, used to cry, "God protect us from ceasefire" as he watched each one raise the intensity of the fighting. By stripping moderate Serbs of credibility while giving the Bosnians hope and time to rearm, ceasefires killed people.

Another television war is now exerting its dreadful magnetism, sucking in "concern" and money and arms and fatalities, aggravating every grievance, externalising every atrocity. What Serbs and Bosnians and Croats are doing to each other is horrible. When they have the temerity to do it in our drawing rooms, we regard it as our business. Boutros Boutros Ghali was right to fear that Bosnia

might become a rich man's cause, from which the UN should keep aloof. He knew the attractive power of white grief.

So the saloon bar questions roll, to which only realpolitik can give an honest answer. Why not? We are standing idle in Armenia, in Somalia, in Sudan, in Burma? Sure, we can take in refugees, or subcontract our humanitarian responses to aid agencies, as we did in Ethiopia. But that lacks the voter appeal of troops on the ground.

But this is "Europe's backyard"? Only if we define it as such. Even those in backyards must sometimes sort out their own troubles. Serbia must needs a more moderate leadership if the war is not to spread. Peace in Bosnia must be a prerequisite for that moderation, even the awful peace of deserted villages. The longer the war, the greater the danger of infectious anarchy spreading ever wider.

Why not step up sanctions and bring down Milosevic? No stupidity is greater than a belief in the power of economic sanctions to topple governments. They do the opposite: ask Castro, Gaddafi, Saddam, or for that matter Brezhnev, Vorster, Deng. A siege economy may impoverish the poor and inconvenience the middle classes but it entrenches those in power, especially authoritarians. The spectacle of frigates steaming up and down the Adriatic makes the world feel better. It will not undermine Milosevic.

But surely we cannot shut our eyes to Nazi-style atrocities? Neither side has a monopoly on atrocity in Yugoslavia. Civil wars are always thus. The question is can we stop it and the answer is no: not saturation bombing by *The New York Times* or surgical strikes by Margaret Thatcher. This is not nation against nation but village against village, war at its most intransigent. The West cannot conceivably sponsor a swift Serb victory, but at least it should not recklessly raise the hopes of those about to lose. There will be time plenty to damn the damnable when the killing has stopped.

What of Britain's obligation to the United Nations and the EC effort? What of it indeed? The obligation is to relieve suffering, not avert a Bosnian defeat. All ten countries with troops in Bosnia are heading for the same fall: the allies suffered in Lebanon in 1983. Europe's challenge is to grapple with its greatest post-war exodus. Britain's response? Germany 235,000 refugees, Britain 4,000. Sending soldiers to wallow in the Bosnian mud is no answer.

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Summit city summed up

JOHN MAJOR'S travelling circus, which is doing the rounds of European capitals in an attempt to salvage next month's Edinburgh summit, will be dismayed to learn that its efforts are being sabotaged by its own side back home.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, has launched a devastating attack on the host city in the book which is supposed to laud Edinburgh's virtues. *Edinburgh — A Celebration* has been funded by Scottish councils as part of their contribution to the summit and copies will be given to each of the delegates.

They will no doubt be fascinated by Sir Nicholas's views, which contrast starkly with those of the other contributors: "There are constellations of little planetary diques — the university with its noisy staff club, the financial institutions, secret, grey and incestuous, the lawyers, the accountants, the galleries, the Kirk, host to the annual hypocrisy of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, more concerned with the sins of South Africa than the sins of

Scotland, of which the greatest in Edinburgh is the lack of fun or a sense of fun," he writes.

No one is spared in the tirade: "The professional classes in the city have deep frozen the capital's creative spirit. They have turned the city into a hive of half-high, half-haughty." The meetings of the city's great and good are self-righteous. "Those who attend their functions think it is grand to attend and those they attend upon think they are even grander," the polemic continues.

The best is reserved for the end. "Edinburgh is black in its profile, and grey in its population. It is difficult to see in the age of the classless society how Edinburgh can relieve itself of the grey pallor of its nature."

Norman Irons, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, is relaxed about Fairbairn's outburst. "I suspect if Nicky Fairbairn had been asked to write a profile of Glasgow he would have written the same," he says. "His only purpose is to be provocative and outrageous."

"Of course it's not a fair profile of Edinburgh but when did Nicky ever try to be fair? I suspect the reason he has written it is because he's never invited to our gatherings of the great and good."



DIARY

Monday saw a statement on the Windsor Castle fire: yesterday the green paper on the future of the BBC. Could this be Peter Brooke's busiest week since the Lord's Test Match last year? The heritage secretary's office is not saying. One of the few benefits of having held the Northern Ireland brief is a forward diary protected from the prying eyes of the press, a privilege his predecessor would no doubt have envied during his last weeks in office.

Single-minded

LORD Henry Mountrichars, the rock-flooding owner of Slane Castle in co. Meath, has unwittingly found himself at the centre of a typically Irish row. Mountrichars, who is running as a Fine Gael candidate in co. Louth in today's election has been accused by a former mem-

ber of the Dail of being "a symbol and appendage representative of British imperialism, British Government and British Government establishment".

Councillor Bernard Markey, who decided not to run in Louth this year, also claims there is a basic incompatibility in being an Irish TD as well as a member of the British aristocracy.

The comments have done little to blunt the stoic owner of Slane, however. Mountrichars says elections are about winning seats. "I am not a peer, my father is," he retorts. "But I do intend to take up my seat in the Lords for one simple reason. I want to see Sellafield closed."

The burden of Channel 4's Dispatches programme, which tonight questions the propriety of Mark Thatcher's business dealings when his mother was prime minister, is unlikely to

worry Baroness Thatcher. What may concern her more are the extraordinary clips which show Mark's short-lived career as a fashion model in the *Far East* and his spell advertising Scotch whisky on Japanese television.

Odd odds

SHOULD Fatherland, Robert Harris's thriller, win the coveted £20,000 Sunday Express Book of the Year award tonight, there will be some long faces at William Hill, the bookmakers. Such has been the overwhelming support for the book that William Hill closed the betting a fortnight ago. Although there are six finalists, 95 per cent of the bets placed have been on *Fatherland* and the odds have dropped from 4 to 1 against to 2 to 1 on, the shortest odds ever offered for any book.

Graham Sharpe, spokesman for the bookmakers, says: "If it wins we will have to pay out a five-figure sum. We would not dream of suggesting there is anything fishy going on but it is very odd."

Merry Mellor

GOOD to see that despite a trying year David Mellor does not lack Christmas cheer. The for-

mer heritage secretary has won the dubious honour of being the MP with the longest Christmas card list, having ordered 3,000 cards from the Commons fees office. Second in the card league



is Sir Rhodes Boyson, Tory MP for Brent North, with an order of 1,600. He narrowly beats Gyles Brandreth, Tory MP for Chester and former world scrabble champion: he is sending 1,500 of the cards, which depict the *Adoration of the Shepherds* by E.W. Tristram. But Mellor will have to pay the £540 price of his seasonal good will. MPs do not pay postage on letters posted at the House of Commons but the exception is Christmas cards.



YEAR OF FEARS

Time will soften even the pain of royal 1992

Because the principal speaker had a sore throat, the speeches came before lunch at Guildhall yesterday. The break in protocol was both an advantage to the Queen, who had been invited to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of her accession, and to her audience who had more than the usual amount of time to digest what she had to say. She left much to ponder upon. This year had not been one of "undiluted pleasure", she said. In words made more poignant by weakness of voice, she called for compassion, understanding and moderation from those who would criticise her family. She made no direct reference to *The Daily Mirror's* photographs of the Duchess of York or to the marital problems of the Prince and Princess of Wales. She did not need to. She did refer to the "tragic fire at Windsor": but, while Dryden described the year of London's great fire as an *annus mirabilis*, 1992, she said, would go down as "*annus horribilis*" for her. Fires themselves are of little account here. The argument about who pays for the repairs is a squalid and miserable business which should soon be settled and allowed to die. What matters is the national sense that something is wrong with the state of the royal family, that, while the monarch remains high in her subjects' esteem, the rest of "the firm" is variously at fault and failing to live and work as it should. The Queen did not deny that there might be problems at the palace. Serious questioning "could and should" act as an "effective engine for change", she said. She spoke wistfully of how the City of London, to whose

assembled dignitaries she was speaking, had both managed change and ensured stability. That has been the Queen's great achievement for the monarchy over her 40 years on the throne. It has been put at risk in 1992: her request now is that the royal family's critics — "those whose task it is in life to offer instant opinions on all things great and small" — should be less harsh, more humane, humorous and understanding.

It was a brave speech, which deserves to be heeded by those at whom it was aimed. To describe an "*annus horribilis*" is strong language. It is easy to say that her year has been less fearful than that for many people in Britain, even less problematic than that of the prime minister who sat by her side. But it has certainly been unpleasant.

She did not call directly for reform of press behaviour — still less for privacy laws or other prior restraints. She asked for "moderation in all things", a request that a monarch may reasonably make to family, friends and subjects alike. Although the slogan may achieve no more than it did when first inscribed over Apollo's temple at Delphi (strong men and women may approve the notion in general but apply it only selectively) the call was worth making. Public interest about royal marriages cannot last for ever. Even a short period of calm might cool tempers and passions. In later Latin the word "*horribilis*" lost its sting, becoming more like our "amazing" or "tremendous". So too, we hope, will 1992 seem less hurtful when lunch is served for Her Majesty's fiftieth year.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The way forward for the BBC is quality not quantity

The proposition that the BBC must be preserved as "a major public service broadcasting organisation" would have provoked intense controversy in the government and among free-market think tanks a few years ago. But yesterday, Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, could quietly assert that role for the BBC in his green paper on the future of broadcasting — and be right to do so.

Free markets in broadcasting are approaching. But they are still in their infancy. They must be encouraged and developed, taking full advantage of technology to expand consumer choice. But it will be many years, if not decades, before proliferating channels and pay-per-view programmes allow consumers to control broadcasting through market forces, in the same way as they control newspaper, magazine and book publishing today.

Viewers will doubtless welcome more broadcasting choice over the next decade, but they will be also concerned about preserving and enhancing the quality of programmes they already enjoy. The BBC may still contain large pockets of inefficiency and it may suffer from many lapses of quality, judgment and taste. But it remains the best all-round broadcasting organisation in the world. It is the most important player in one of the few sectors of economic activity where Britain can justly claim an international lead.

The government has already condemned the BBC to contraction or decline. The present licence fee formula uprates the annual fee by less than the rise in retail prices. Since the cost of making programmes increases with wages, which tend to rise faster than prices, a formula keeping the BBC's income below the RPI means steady reduction in either the quantity or the quality of the BBC's output.

In principle, there is nothing wrong with a

steady erosion of the BBC's market share, provided the process meets to two conditions. First and foremost, the BBC must emphasise quality rather than quantity, when it is allocating increasingly scarce resources and looking for economies. The essence of the BBC's public-service mission, and the main justification for its licence fee, is that it must provide programmes of a high quality and a range that may not be available from commercial broadcasters. But secondly, the universal nature of the licence fee also implies some pressure on the BBC to offer programmes with universal appeal.

These two conditions are difficult, but not impossible, to reconcile. The BBC must offer viewers and listeners a broad array of programmes that will include something for everyone. But, unlike its commercial competitors, the BBC does not have to worry whether its programmes and services will each individually have mass appeal.

The BBC will have a prime responsibility for supporting high culture and serving minority tastes, at least until pay per view television becomes more widespread. But, even in financially restricted circumstances, it can do far more than this. Commercial channels will leave many opportunities for popular broadcasting wide open because they are too costly, innovative or of uncertain appeal.

The BBC has slackened its imperialist ambitions since the days when to criticise its behaviour in any way was to risk being dubbed a barbarian. The response by the BBC to the Green Paper should show a recognition of that change. The BBC must be able in future to experiment, innovate and stretch the boundaries of broadcasting. Provided all viewers can regularly find something to stimulate and please them in the BBC spectrum, the licence fee will be money well spent.

IRISH REJIG

The Dublin election looks set to solve nothing

Today's election in the Republic of Ireland is a muddle born of miscalculation. It promises little more than a different coalition, hampered by the same sorts of tension that toppled the nervous alliance between Fianna Fáil's Albert Reynolds and a handful of Progressive Democrats.

At a time when they desperately need a strong, clear agenda for economic reconstruction, Irish voters — also considering a tortuous referendum on abortion — must now choose which compromise they dislike least. It is a bad day for the country.

In spite of Mother Teresa's extraordinary pro-life intervention yesterday, the economy remains the headline issue in a country struggling to achieve credibility in the European Community. Already burdened by 20 per cent unemployment, Ireland has suffered grievously in the aftermath of Black Wednesday, which added 20 per cent to the cost of exports to Britain and forced interest rates up by 3 per cent. The punt held its own in the central band of the exchange-rate mechanism during the currency tremors of the weekend, but only just; devaluation may well be the first act of the new or re-elected taoiseach, as mortgage-payers angrily resist a further rise in the cost of borrowing.

The parties' desperate response has been to promise to break open a non-existent piggy-bank. Their promises of bonanzas-to-come illustrate the uninspiring character of an election which, in practice, has degenerated into a vote on personality rather than policy.

Saddled with the "Albert factor", his party is unlikely to capture its first absolute majority in the 166-seat Dáil since 1977. Mr Rey-

nolds is hardly an ideal architect of future power-sharing pacts, having foolishly forced a snap election by accusing his PD coalition partner, Desmond O'Malley, of dishonesty. Fresh leadership would certainly be needed for a Fianna Fáil pact with Dick Spring's Labour Party, the success story of the campaign and probable power broker, or John Bruton's Fine Gael. By holding the referendum on the same day, the taoiseach has also allowed the profoundly nuanced issue of abortion to become entangled with his own electoral fortunes: a decision he may rue tomorrow morning. Ireland needs a legislative rather than constitutional solution — and canner political management.

In the midst of this confusion, the emergence of a reconstructed Labour Party in the campaign has been hailed as the dawn of a new left-right alignment in a political culture deadened by the 70-year-old divisions of the civil war. Yet a likely outcome of today's vote is a pact between Labour and Fine Gael, a shotgun marriage of social democrat and Thatcherite principles which seems likely to end in messy divorce. The nature of the new alignment, if it exists, will quickly be blurred by compromise.

On balance, the inclusion of Fine Gael in the new government seems desirable, given its conciliatory approach to Anglo-Irish relations and more prudent economic policy. But it is surely absurd that Mr Bruton, who has presided over a broad decline in his party's popularity, may be swept to the premiership by the quirks of the Irish electoral system: a lesson to those on this side of the Irish sea who dream of proportional representation.

Synod decision and Catholic wing

From the Rural Dean of Hantsmere

Sir, It is encouraging to read (report, November 21) of the Bishop of London's efforts on behalf of the many Anglicans who now feel anxiety, distress and hurt by the decision of the General Synod on the issue of women priests; but all this proposed activity seems to me to be aimed at helping the members of the Church's Catholic wing.

Are there not others, like me, who feel equally anxious, distressed and hurt, but who do not belong to that tradition, and for whom talk about alternative episcopal oversight and defecting to Rome is alien? Are there not traditionalist evangelicals who are as devastated by the synod's vote as our more Catholic brethren?

There seems to be no society, no organisation, no structure which will speak for me, which will aid me in my hour of need, which can assure me that I am not alone, and which can suggest a way forward through the slough of despair into which I sink more and more as the days go by.

Must I go on paying the price of being associated with a wing of the Church which has largely abandoned its orthodox heritage?

Yours faithfully,

DAVID G. WOODWARDS,

The Rectory, Thorndon,

Eye, Suffolk.

From the Master of the Temple

Sir, Bishop Leonard invites Anglican traditionalists to seek communion, as unites or whatever, with the see of Peter, and to accept the magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. In so doing we should be accepting the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope, and the immaculate conception and bodily assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary — doctrines which, as faithful Anglicans, we believe to be contrary to scripture and tradition.

Where is the logic?

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH ROBINSON,

Master's House, Temple, ECA.

From the Roman Catholic Bishop in North London

Sir, Discussions of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church take place in a context significantly different to that of the General Synod. There is a much more sharply focused understanding of the ordained priesthood.

In this regard it is meaningless for Ruth Gledhill to state ("RC women organise ordination campaign", report, November 20) that "some priests allow women to administer the sacrament". Women have for some time been distributing Holy Communion and indeed may lead a Holy Communion service in the absence of a priest. This should not be confused with the celebration of Mass or the ordained priest's proper role in that celebration.

The effective promotion of genuine cooperation and shared responsibility between clergy and laity is a major item on the agenda of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. The pattern of ultimate decision-taking in doctrinal matters focuses on the responsibility and gift (charism) given by Christ to the college of bishops. In union with the Bishop of Rome, to preserve the integrity of the Catholic tradition. This is significantly different to the pattern adopted by the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,

VINCENT NICHOLS,

Westminster House,

Watford Way, Hendon, NW4.

From Prebendary John Gaskell and the Reverend David Hunt

Sir, On November 17 five of the 11 clergy who represent the diocese of London on the General Synod called a meeting for December 3 to plan for immediate action to prevent implementation of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure.

As incumbents of two churches unrepresentative of the catholic movement of the Church of England we affirm our support of the legislation. As Anglican Catholics we pledge our support of the Bishop of London and the other diocesan bishops in their call to us and all our fellow Anglicans for time, space, reflection and prayerful discussion.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GASKELL,

(Vicar, St Alban's, Holborn),

DAVID HUNT,

(Vicar, All Saints, Margaret Street)

All Saints Vicarage,

Margaret Street, W1.

Church and universe

From Sir William McCrea, FRSS

Sir, Mr Nicolas Walter (letter, November 13) refers to the proposal by the Astronomer Royal for a forum for discussing questions of joint scientific and religious interest.

After writing that "there may be reason to believe that this would be good for religion", Mr Walter asks but is there any reason to believe that it would be good for science?

The question is fair. As scientists must allow, there is one — apparently only one — way to find an answer. That is to try the experiment.

Yours etc.,

WILLIAM MCCREA,

87 Houndean Rise,

Lewes, East Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Public policy and tax turnaround

From Mr Arthur Seldon

Sir, Peter Riddell's judgement ("The great tax turnaround", November 16) that "taxpayers will not finance a continuously growing public sector" emphasises the fundamental truth of "democratic" politics that government trails far behind underlying public sentiment. The solution requires not one new approach to public policy (financing) but the three which economists mustered by the Institute of Economic Affairs over 30 years, from young unknowns to Nobel laureates, have patiently analysed.

First, we must rethink the nature and size of the "public" (more accurately government) sector. Most "public" services do not have to be run by government: unlike defence or law and order, they do not have to be financed by taxes.

The tragedy is that government will not withdraw when the circumstances that may once have required tax-financed services have passed into history. Poverty was once the excuse for state welfare services; most could now be supplied with wider choices for people with lower incomes.

Second, we have not refined the means of discovering genuine public opinion on which services should be run by government and which left to the market. The political process of voting at elections does not discover preferences between government and market supply, since it conceals the individual tax costs of "free" government services which the voter requires to compare with the market prices of private services.

Third, the best method of financing government services, now taking not far short of one half of national income, could reduce the tax proportion of it to about one fifth.

The main methods of paying for universal "free" government services that do not have to be financed by taxes — various forms of charging and selective benefits — were explained

long before Conservatives in government and Fabians out of government showed much interest.

Today it is not so much the politicians as the political process which has for too long dominated too much of our lives. But the politicians have neglected the solutions and created our present discontents.

It is easy to advocate these remedies in 1992. IEA economists have been evolving them since the late 1950s without fear of timid politicians or ideological ridicule.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR SELDON

(Founder President,

Institute of Economic Affairs,

The Thatched Cottage,

Goddien Green,

Near Sevenoaks, Kent.

November 24.

From Mr M. H. Williams

Sir, Peter Riddell states that "the Treasury... will do everything possible to avoid a rise in income tax". He goes on to list more radical ways of reining back public-sector expenditure, including moving from flat-rate to targeted pensions.

This item seems to be increasingly included in "radical" solutions. But pensioners have paid for their state and other occupational pensions during their working lives, when generally tax rates were higher than now.

The present precarious state of the economy has been reached after some years of a policy to reduce direct taxation and increase indirect taxation. Perhaps it is time to review this strategy to ascertain whether it is the most cost-effective and equitable way of raising public finance.

Yours faithfully,

M. H. WILLIAMS

(Chairman, Economics Committee),

Council of Managerial and

Professional Staffs,

Hayes Court, West Common Road,

Bromley, Kent.

Private sector and pay restraint

From Mr Roger Dean

Sir, After around two or three years of recession the Conservative government only now thinks of cautioning the private sector with regard to pay restraints. This appeared in the press first about two weeks ago and the prime minister mentioned it publicly for the first time at the Lord Mayor's banquet on November 16.

My recollection is that the private sector identified the recession many months before the government were prepared to admit that one even existed. The private sector has been tightening its belt for some years now. My own profession, surveying, has been decimated by the recession, admittedly after a few very good years, but does not need now to be told by the government to curb pay rises.

Such policy has been a matter of course for a considerable period now and indeed cost-cutting exercises have even included reductions in salaries and wages, quite apart from widespread redundancies and other restraints on expenditure. Well publicised high boardroom salaries do not apply to most of the private sector.

It could be better for us all if government and the public sector took a leaf out of the private sector's book in terms of spotting trends and taking action.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER DEAN,

Field End House,

Bendish, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Keith Chamberlain

Sir, "Our leader" appears to be basing his recovery on hope, as is the Chancellor of the Exchequer (report and leading article, November 17): hope that he can control public-sector pay, that the private sector will follow

that wonderful example and hope that the banks will pass on the savings to small businesses.

As one small businessman, largely dependent on the services of the banking sector, I see no reason to find such hope justified.

I wonder whether our leaders are aware of what is going on in the real world? I hope so. I also hope that they will soon start to lead, and not continue to live in hope for tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,

KEITH CHAMBERLAIN,

Chamberlain House, West Street,

Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

From the President of the Association of Magisterial Officers

Sir, The Chancellor, in his Autumn Statement, once again seems to regard the use by central government of public servants' pay as a legitimate means to fund the economy.

He seems to ignore the fact that the greatest resource in any business is its staff. To mistreat the staff is tantamount to mistreating the resources of the company, leading to loss of morale, less efficient services and an ever-increasing downward spiral.

Working in public sector employment used to offer a strong element of job security. A serious side-effect of current policy is that this security has gone and redundancy has become not just a threat but a reality.

Yours sincerely,

RAYMOND J. CLARKSON

(Chairman, Officers' Side,

Joint Negotiating Committee),

Association of Magisterial Officers,

The Court House, Bradford Road,

Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Business letters, page 29

Life's crises

From Mr Thomas Lumley

Sir, On reading the list of "warning signs" of mid-life crisis (*Modern Times*, November 17) I was dismayed to realise that I am in the midst of an epidemic.

All around me are people "looking bowed down" by work, "suddenly taking up a very active sport", and suffering from "fragmented sleep". I am, of course, at a university.

The list of danger signs goes on: "lowered self-esteem", "morbid speech patterns" and "obsessional

attention" to unimportant details — the classic signs of having an essay due. Intolerance, expressing "grandiose ideas" and forcing one's views on others — there are scores of examples in any political club. However, we must look on the bright side. This may be the solution to the growing problem of graduate unemployment. Employers will surely be eager to hire people who have already had their mid-life crisis and so are less likely to succumb later.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS LUMLEY,

239 Illey Road, Oxford.

Sitting pretty?

From Mr Dennis Walker

Sir, Mr Moynaux (letter, November 16; also, November 17, 18, 20, 23) asks what should be the contents of the Woolsack. May I suggest, in deference to current trends, that this be resolved by sponsorship. The resulting seat might not be comfortable, but the accompanying logos would certainly brighten up the chamber.

Yours,

DENNIS WALKER,

10 Jasper Road,

Oakham, Leicestershire.

November 17.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

From Mr G. J. Pressler

Sir, The Woolsack, I believe, represents the nation's wealth. Judging by a growing number amongst our clients it should be called the Writsack and stuffed with bankruptcy petitions.

Yours faithfully,

GRAHAM PRESSLER,

Graham Pressler & Co

(Solicitors),

74 Wrayby Street,

Brigg, South Humberside.

November 17.

From Mr John H. Franklin

Sir, An appropriate contemporary filling for the Woolsack? The only possible answer is natural gas.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. FRANKLIN,

48 Upton Road, N1.

Time to support royal family

From Father John Armitage

Sir, Over the past months we have seen growing attention in the media to the royal family. Much of this attention has been of a very negative and often openly hostile nature. There is little doubt, in my mind, of the hurt that has been done to the Queen and to various members of the royal family.

It would be a very strange family that did not experience problems, given the confused nature of today's society. The royal family is not isolated from this; their pain is as real and distressing as any. The constant rubbing of salt in the wound by the media is a national disgrace.

I do not doubt that the monarchy, like all institutions, has to develop and change. There are legitimate areas of interest and possibly concern, but when people are judged simply by financial considerations, when a family under great pressure is judged by gossip and innuendo, when a marriage is placed under such a fine microscope that nothing is missed, when even a great loss like the fire at Windsor is used as another stick to beat an already bruised group, where is our compassion?

Where is our loyalty to an institution that has served our country well, where is our loyalty to the Queen who dedicated herself to the service of our people 40 years ago this year?

I suspect that the current interest in the present problems of the royal family says more about the confused values and double standards of the media and our society in general than about a much loved group of people who deserve better than they are receiving at present at the hands of the British people.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN ARMITAGE,

Cathedral House, Ingrave Road,

Brentwood, Essex.

November 24.

Arts hopes dashed

From the Director of the National Campaign for the Arts

Sir, For the sixth year running the proportion of government spending allocated to the arts has been cut. The new Department of National Heritage, contrary to the hopes of many and the promises of John Major, has been humiliated in its first year, losing a greater proportion of its funds than any other department of state (according to figures in *The Times*, November 13).

Funds saved from the capital spending on the British Library have not been given back to the arts. Instead, £5 million has been taken away by the Treasury as a notional contribution to the European Regional Fund, and DNH administration is set to rise by over £7 million as new staff are recruited and it moves into its own building.

In contrast every sector it funds has had its grant frozen or cut in real terms. Worse is to come. Under the rolling three-year plan the Arts Council is due to lose £5 million in 1994 and the National Heritage Memorial Fund is to be slashed by a third in three years' time. There have been no moves to help the film industry, local authority-funded organisations, or libraries.

English Heritage's budget has been cut this year and I now wonder, with some trepidation, from whose pocket Peter Brooke is expected to take the millions that will be needed to restore Windsor Castle.

By reneging on its pledge to increase the Arts Council's grant by 3.7 per cent in line with inflation the government has made sure that there is nothing to deal with any of the predicted problems next year. If passed on to clients the cuts would ensure that any sponsorship money brought in would be used for replacing lost public funds, not supplementing them as business leaders have constantly stressed is their intention.

Michael Portillo, David Mellor's replacement as Chief

OBITUARIES

FRED ROCHE

Fred Lloyd Roche, CBE, architect and urban planner, died in Milton Keynes on November 9 aged 61. He was born on March 11, 1931.

FRED Roche played a pivotal role in transforming Milton Keynes from a struggling "new town" into the fastest growing and 15th largest urban centre in Britain. From 1971 until 1980 he was general manager of the team which developed the proposed new "city of the future" in Buckinghamshire, situated halfway between London and Birmingham and between the M1 and A5 roads. During that time it became the most successful new town in Europe.

Horrified by the monolithic concrete housing developments which were replacing old town and city centres elsewhere, Roche and his colleagues determined to retain the best elements of the twenty or so villages and two small towns in the area designated for the new urban settlement and to use them as regulators of scale, character and continuity. He recruited a team of architects and landscape gardeners who paid heed to past community forms and provided a variety of neighbourhood designs. Landscaping utilised elements forged during the 1950s and 1960s — old buildings were restored, millions of trees were planted, a city park was laid out, lakes were



created and shopping centres featured airy interiors and attractive facades. This ambitious approach paid off. By 1980 the total public and private investment in Milton Keynes exceeded £722 million, 15,000 homes had been sold or rented and a new city centre, at that time Europe's biggest retailing development, had been constructed.

More than 25,000 jobs were created, half of them new ones as opposed to jobs which had been relocated. Milton Keynes gained the status of an admired and favoured planning experiment. Roche was particularly proud of the diversity of industry the development corporation attracted and the fact that there was no single dominant industry.

The whole concept of Milton Keynes, said Roche, was of a city built for people. He was delighted when he saw gnomes in gardens, he said, because it meant that people were doing their own thing and settling down. He deplored the kind of situation in which people could not choose what colour they could paint their front door.

Fred Roche studied architecture at the Regent Street Polytechnic, London, and qualified in 1955. He began his career as a housing architect in London, but in 1958 moved to Coventry where he was deputy schools architect and led the team responsible for the redevelopment of a major section of the central area of Coventry. He left Coventry to join the Midlands Housing Consortium as their principal development architect in 1963.

In 1965, aged 33, Roche joined the Runcom Development Corporation as chief architect and planning officer. In this capacity he worked with Arthur

Ling to prepare the master plan for the new town. At Runcom, he led the professional teams responsible for the entire building programme.

In 1970 he was appointed director of design and production for the development programme for the proposed new city of Milton Keynes, becoming general manager of the development corporation the following year.

In 1980 Roche joined with Terence Conran to establish Conran Roche — architectural and planning practice. As deputy chairman and managing director he led the practice's work until his health forced his retirement from day-to-day activities in 1988. One of the firm's most important commissions was the Butlers' Wharf project in London Docklands.

Roche was created CBE in 1985. He was an active council member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, serving as vice president from 1983-85, and as honorary treasurer 1985-86. He was responsible for the RIBA inner cities committee report proposing a national urban renewal agency. He advised the Department of the Environment and several foreign governments on urban development.

He leaves his widow, Valerie, their daughter and two children from his first marriage.

ROY ACUFF



Roy Acuff, a singer, fiddler and banjo player, who was internationally recognised as "the King of Country Music," died of heart failure at his home in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 23 aged 89. He was born near Maynardville in the Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee on September 15, 1903.

BUT for a severe case of sunstroke, which ended his professional baseball career with the New York Yankees almost before it began, Roy Acuff might never have taken up the fiddle. It turned out to be a lucky misfortune, both for him and for generations of country music fans. Acuff, the son of a Baptist preacher from the backwoods of Tennessee, turned instead to his roots and began a musical odyssey that brought him fame and no small fortune as the long-time star of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry.

Acuff had sung in the church choir and learned the fiddle from his father. The showbusiness techniques which were to stand him in good stead came from his early years as a performer with Doc Hower's Medicine Show, a travelling troupe in the American south.

At first he performed white gospel music, changing to the "country" style after forming his own band, "The Crazy Tennesseans," in the early 1930s. "People used to call it hillbilly music," he once said. "I never took any offence at that. I'm from the mountains,

string band. The fiddle, the string bass, the rhythm guitar, the five string banjo, and an instrument known as the Hawaiian dobro were almost all he needed throughout his career.

In 1943, by which time he was earning \$200,000 a year, Acuff made a brief run for the governorship of Tennessee in protest against the incumbent who had said he thought country music was "disgracing the state." He tried again four years later as a Republican, but quickly conceded defeat without regret. "As governor, I would have been just another politician," he said. "As a singer I can be Roy Acuff."

During the second world war and later, Acuff gave frequent concerts for American servicemen overseas, often bringing country music to areas where it had never been heard before. In 1962 he was elected the first living member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

A serious car accident in 1965 slowed Acuff down for several years, and he began to devote more time to building up the first of his country music museums in Nashville. There are now two of them, both on the Opryland entertainment park which contains the new auditorium for the Grand Ole Opry, built in 1974. Still performing almost to the time of his death, Acuff had a simple justification for the type of music he played: "It helps make people better," he said. Roy Acuff, who was widowed in 1981, is survived by a son.

AUDRE LORD

Audre Geraldine Lorde, American feminist poet and essayist, died of cancer in Christchurch, St Croix, Virgin Islands, on November 17 aged 58. She was born in New York, of West Indian parents, on February 18, 1934.

AUDRE Lorde, although not a literary poet in the (until recently) ordinary sense, wielded immense influence in America as, in her own words, "a black lesbian feminist warrior poet". This influence was reflected in her appointment as New York State's poet laureate. Her courageous and public 14-year battle with breast cancer, described in *The Cancer Journals* (1980), was helpful and inspiring to other women suffering from the same disease, and deservedly enhanced her reputation.

Audre Lorde, who had published her first poem at the age of 15, was educated at Hunter College, New York, from which she graduated in 1959. After attending a post-graduate course at Columbia University she became a librarian at Mount Vernon Public Library in New York (1961-63).

Her first collection of poems, *The First Cities*, published by the New York Public Library Press in 1968, attracted attention, and in that year she was poet-in-residence at Tougaloo College, Mississippi. Thereafter she held a variety of appointments, winding up as professor of English at her



own old college, Hunter, in 1981. In 1987 she became Thomas Hunter Professor there. She was editor of various magazines, including *Chrysalis*, and won numerous awards, including the Gay Caucus Book of the Year Award in 1981. The poetry collection *From A Land Where*

Other People Live (1983) was nominated for the National Book Award. "As a contributor to women's literature, her influence was monumental," said a member of the collective that runs the leading feminist bookstore in Greenwich Village, Judith's Room, where Lorde often gave readings.

"There will never be someone just like her." It will be those who heard her in full space, rather than those who can only read her poetry, who will remember her most vividly. Her two most memorable books for the reader are both in prose: *The Cancer Journals* and the also

autobiographical *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982). Her verse was less for the eager and embattled listener:

*But I wear my nights as I wear my life
and my dying
absolute and unforgiving.*

She lived, said a critic, "in the grip of ancient torments." The core of her endeavour, which the diagnosis of cancer only increased, was the struggle for black female power. The best of her poetry draws not on Caribbean mythology, but on that of the "Dahomean Amazons". Two of her volumes were published in London: *Cables to Rage* (1970) and *Our Dead Behind Us* (1987). William Naughton Inc made much of the most evocative of her work available in a 1982 trade edition: *Chosen Poems — Old and New*.

Audre Lorde, although not predominantly an intellectual, and although grotesquely overpraised by enthusiasts, was no run-of-the-mill splurger of emotions. She will be remembered not only because of her presence and her courage, but also for her insight into herself she knew, and acknowledged and analysed, the rage and the paradoxes within. The *Cancer Journals* has a rare and inspiring dignity.

Audre Lorde was married in 1962 to Edwin A. Rollins, by whom she had a daughter and a son. The marriage ended in divorce in 1970.

CLIFFORD BARCLAY

Clifford Barclay, financial advisor to the film industry, died in London on October 18 aged 84. He was born in London on December 28, 1907.

CLIFFORD Barclay was the British film industry's financial and tax adviser for nearly five decades. An accountant by training, he was introduced to the world of cinema through his firm's clients. In 1931, aged 24, he became a partner at Stoy Hayward, where he had been articled to Frederick Stoy and later became a senior partner.

As adviser to the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association from 1934 to 1955, he was responsible for monitoring the Eadie levy, the sum siphoned from box-office receipts to fund British film-making. He was chairman of the All Industry Tax Committee and instrumental in negotiating the abolition of Entertainment Tax in 1957.

In recognition of his service to the industry, he was appointed president of the British Film Producers

Association in 1968. He used his position, which he held until 1975, to increase harmony and co-operation between the film makers, their bankers, the union-led technicians and the distributors. He was also influential during the formative years of Bafsa.

Barclay was a highly successful businessman after leaving accountancy practice, being a partner at Sotheby's, founder of the Jersey Bank of Commerce, chairman of Glispur Investments, deputy chairman of Pearl & Dean and co-founder and director of Barro Equities. He was one of the first in his field to realise the importance of management education.

Barclay, who had been an 11-plus scholarship boy at the Regent Street Polytechnic, as it then was, and had gone straight from school into articles, worked unstintingly to give late starters a chance in life. He himself was the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants who became well-known furriers and tailors in Queensway, west London.

In 1963 Barclay founded

the Oxford Centre for Management Studies, now Templeton College and part of the University of Oxford. He served on the college's council as member and chairman. He was delighted to receive an honorary MA from Oxford in 1983 in recognition of his contribution.

He worked on the government's Russell report on adult education from 1968 to 1972 and was treasurer of Coley Harlech for some years and a governor of the London School of Economics from 1971.

Barclay, an ardent Chelsea Football Club fan, was a member of the government enquiry into Association Football (the Chester report) from 1966 to 1968. In 1975 he started a ten-year chairmanship of the Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

He was twice Master of the Worshipful Company of Glovers and, from 1983 to 1988, president of the West London Synagogue.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and by a son and a daughter.

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RPI: 139 9 October (1987=100)
1. Reported: midday trading price

It is part of collateral he pledged against a £43 million loan from Lloyds Bank.

مكذبات الأهل

Thorn EMI advances in harmony with Virgin

Analysts are looking forward to growing profits at Thorn EMI as Virgin Music makes an increasing contribution. Thorn also sees potential in the compact disc market

By COLIN CAMPBELL

THORN EMI, which this year bought Virgin Music from Richard Branson for £560 million, says the integration is going well. It expects Virgin to make a "significant" contribution to year-end results.

Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, said Thorn EMI had done well in a recession to lift pre-tax profits from £94.9 million to £105.2 million in the six months to end-September on a turnover of £1.95 billion (£1.76 billion).

He added that the interim dividend would therefore be raised from 8.6p to 9p a share.

Thorn EMI shares responded with a 20p rise to 795p yesterday.

That advance was fuelled in part by analysts' belief that, after two successive years of lower profits and net earnings, the financial year ending March will be better.

Sir Colin said the group's core businesses of music and rental made respectable progress in difficult markets in the interim period, though he gave a warning that the trading environment remains tough.

Thorn EMI increased its share of the United Kingdom rental market during the half year, though the number of installations was broadly unchanged.

Turnover and profit figures both advanced for the group's activities in the Asia Pacific region. The group said that further development of market opportunities in that part of the world was likely.

Profits from the group's lighting interests also slipped.

from £6 million to £5.2 million.

Sir Colin said there is still much potential within the compact disc market, and emphasised that Thorn EMI continues to invest in all its businesses to reinforce future profitability.

Sir Colin said: "We want to make sure Thorn EMI has efficient businesses and the right equipment for the time when trading conditions turn stronger."

He added that he was not a forced seller of any interest, and that he was under no pressure from the City to demerge the group's core businesses.

The group is likely to benefit in the second half of the financial year from recent exchange rate movements, while year-end gearing is expected to be broadly unchanged, at about 50 per cent.

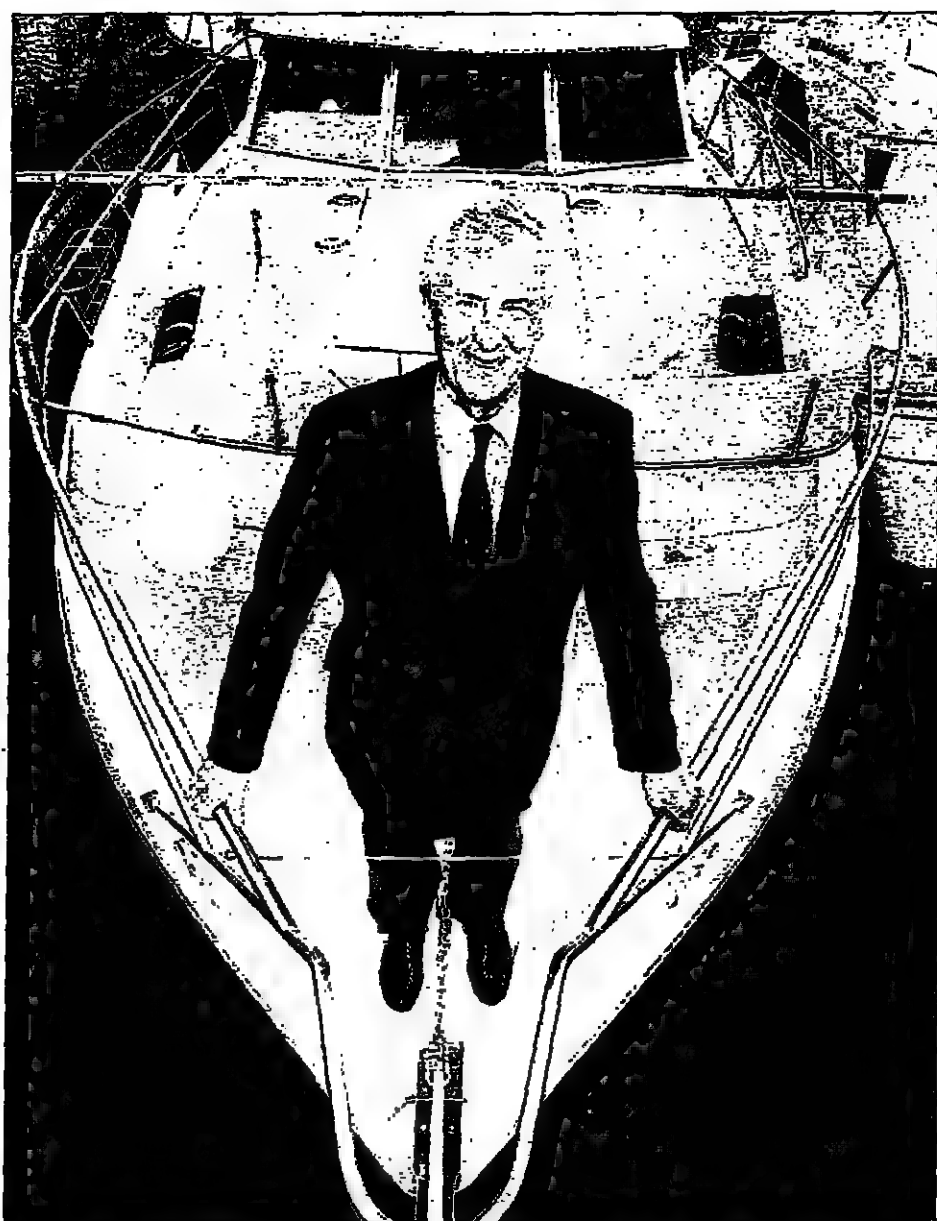
Sir Colin said the integration of Virgin Music with EMI Music was proceeding well, and that relationships with its leading artists have been safeguarded.

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Tempus, page 28



Stormy waters: Sam Newington looks to sterling to steady the ship again

Fairline halves the dividend

By JON ASHWORTH

FAIRLINE Boats, the Peterborough-based luxury power boat builder, has halved its dividend after reporting a pre-tax loss of £507,000 in the year to end-September, compared with a profit of £3 million last time.

The final dividend has been cut to 6.925p (13.85p) a share, making a total for the year of 10.5p (21p). There is a loss per share of 7p compared with earnings of 56p previously.

Sales fell 21 per cent to £27.7 million (£35 million). UK sales fell 31 per cent and export sales declined 13 per cent.

Direct exports now account

for 63 per cent of the company's output, compared with 57 per cent last year.

The devaluation of sterling is expected to boost earnings in the longer term. Many recent orders were taken at the previous exchange rates.

Shares in Fairline collapsed 103p to 325p in May when the company unveiled a first half loss. The shares rose 10p to 195p yesterday.

Sam Newington, chairman, said Fairline had received a record level of order deposits in October.

The recent devaluation of sterling was excellent news, although the cost of imported

components would rise. However, export orders taken at prices geared to the old exchange rates would not be as profitable as expected.

Mr Newington said: "Devaluation will give us the opportunity to restore margins. In the past it has always been significant for the company. Our order book is now very much better than I expected when we started the autumn selling season in September."

As a result of very heavy capital expenditure in the past, there would be no need to spend further large sums on fixed assets, he added.

Australian deal boosts BT's global ambitions

By ROSS TYEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT has won a ten-year contract, likely to generate £350 million of revenues, to provide a private telephone and data network for the New South Wales government.

The deal is the biggest single overseas contract secured by BT in its efforts to become an international specialist provider of managed networks for multinational customers and intensive telecommunications users.

BT's role will be to use its software to manage a network using links largely provided by AOTC, Australia's main telecoms utility, or Optus, its infant rival.

Such contracts provide the easiest route for BT to diversify overseas in markets where telecoms remain largely national monopolies. They also offer a chance to apply the company's sophisticated skills without the immense cost of building new networks.

BT's ambitions are prompted by its desire to become a global player in an increasingly transnational business, and by competition in Britain, where Mercury and radio-based telephone systems are eroding BT's market share.

John Poston, sales director for the Asia Pacific region, said the New South Wales contract would enhance his company's credibility on bidding for similar management contracts with other organisations. Within two years, BT is to construct a private network linking 120,000 telephones and 23,000 computers at 5,000 sites.

The British Telecom company will also encourage the development of Australia's telecoms equipment manufacturing industry. BT will set up a software engineering centre in Sydney, which will establish links with local universities, sharing with them the fruits of research at its laboratories at Marlesham, Suffolk.

BT will also promote the use of Australian suppliers, and help them achieve international competitiveness where necessary.

Unilever paints bleak picture on trading

UNILEVER, the food and consumer products group, sees no signs of an improvement in trading conditions until at least the second half of next year. Floris Maljers, its Dutch chairman, said after a marketing seminar. He said that the economic situation was not getting any worse in America, but was still deteriorating in the United Kingdom. He added that the position in the rest of Europe was difficult to assess because of the present upheaval in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Despite the tough trading conditions, Unilever's earnings have shown resilience, helped by lower interest payments. Net third-quarter profit rose 4 per cent to 1.12 billion guilders (£410 million) on turnover of 26.14 billion against 19.54 billion in the year-ago period. Shares dropped 18p to 1.028p after the remarks by Mr Maljers in Rotterdam.

NSM trims loss

NSM, the heavily indebted coal mining group that recently completed a capital reorganisation, incurred a pre-tax loss of £1.2 million (£1.4 million loss) in the six months to end-September. Turnover declined to £56.8 million (£90.7 million) after the sale of Bison, a supplier of reinforced concrete, and the closure of the building division in December 1991. There was a loss per share of 5.8p (6.1p) and no interim dividend (nil). Interest charges were reduced by £1.4 million to £4.8 million on the back of disposals.

Sims sales advance

BY LOWERING margins to increase market share, Sims Food Group saw pre-tax profits fall 26 per cent to £2.5 million in the six months to end-September. Sales were 23 per cent up at £144.2 million and were 10 per cent ahead extending two acquisitions. The interim dividend stays at 3p. Problems faced included a fall in meat consumption, a shortage of UK beef supplies, abattoir overcapacity and uncertainty resulting from European common agriculture policy reforms. Devaluation of sterling should be of overall benefit.

H Young cuts dividend

H YOUNG, Holdings, the optical lenses to electronic components distributor, has cut its dividend after reporting pre-tax profits of £772,000 (£1.01 million) in the year to end-September. Turnover was £30.9 million (£31.4 million). Earnings per share were 3.5p (4.4p). A final dividend of 1p (4p) a share makes a total of 3p (6p) for the year. The company estimates that the withdrawal of sterling from the ERM reduced profits by £100,000. The loss-making tool division based in Reading has been sold.

Evans to raise £75m

EVANS of Leeds is raising £75 million by issuing 11 per cent debenture stock secured against properties. Proceeds will be used to refinance existing borrowings and to provide finance to expand the property portfolio. Evans made a pre-tax profit of £2.8 million in the six months to September, up from £2.6 million. The annual rent roll has increased from £1.8 million to £19 million with the letting of 250,000 sq ft of office and industrial space over the past six months. Evans is building 45,000 sq ft of offices to house Customs & Excise staff.

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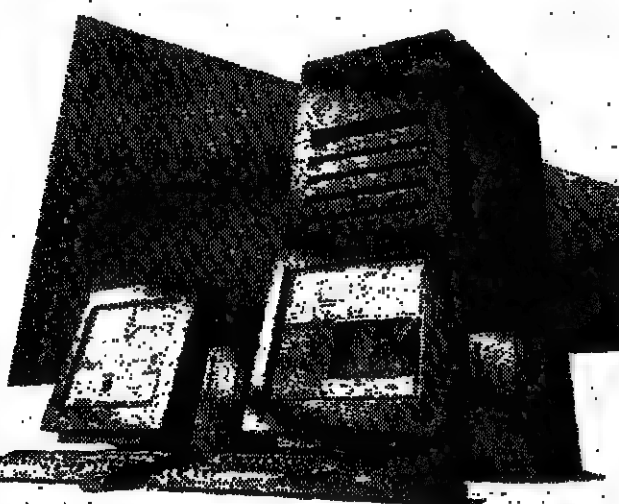
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Argyll offers cheer with turkey glut and profits rise

By Martin Waller
Deputy City Editor

WHILE the country and the high street squares up to what could be another frugal Christmas, at least one vital ingredient of the festive season should be a little more affordable this year. The price of turkeys is already almost 20 per cent lower than last year, according to Argyll Group, owner of the Sainsbury supermarket chain.

Argyll fought low food prices generally — particularly in fresh produce — as well as the recession, to achieve a 15 per cent pre-tax profits rise to £205.1 million in the half-year

■ Sainsbury will be importing cheap French turkeys for Christmas and opening 18 new stores as competition among food retailers heats up and prices for fresh produce fall

to October 10. The interim dividend is 3.55p (3.2p).

David Webster, deputy chairman, said a glut of turkeys dumped on the British market by mainly French producers had depressed the price, now 48p a pound against 59p on average last Christmas. He had no compunction in filling Argyll's shelves with French birds.

Sir Alistair Grant, chair-

man, emphasised the increasingly competitive conditions in retailing when he said that further pleasing profits growth for the current year, expected by the market, would be subject to satisfactory Christmas trading.

Mr Webster said it was too early to take soundings on sales this Christmas. But he added: "We're well pleased with what we achieved in the first half, particularly because inflation turned down so sharply."

Food price inflation, which started the year at 3.6 per cent, finished in October at 1.6 per cent and ran at an average of 2 per cent in the first half, against double that last time. Prices in fresh produce were as much as 16 per cent lower year-on-year during some weeks of the autumn.

Sir Alistair said 18 Sainsbury store openings in the second half would make a total of 26 this year, and by the year end, there would be 341 stores trading across a total of 7 million square feet of sales area. Sainsbury is committed to a similar opening programme until at least 1995-6.

Argyll's other food retail activities, mainly the predominantly Midlands and northern Lo-Cost and Fresh operations, managed like-for-like profits advanced despite difficult trading conditions.

A feature of last year's accounts was an 88 per cent pay rise for Sir Alistair, as a three-year incentive bonus scheme came to fruition, paying him an additional £444,000. A similar scheme started in March, based on share price and earnings per share, will cover the next three years. Argyll said it was too early to say if he could expect a similar benefit.

The reported salary this year would be "very, very much lower" because of the non-recurrence of bonuses, however, the company said.

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Enjoying the fruits of Argyll's bonus scheme: Sir Alistair Grant, the chairman, who received an 88% pay rise

Prices of cars in UK '51 per cent too high'

By Our City Staff

PRE-TAX car prices in the UK are still as much as 51 per cent higher than the cost of exactly the same model on the Continent, according to a new report. The findings are published on the same day as the EC Commission pledged a new crackdown on car manufacturers and dealers who hinder consumers trying to take advantage of the savings to be had by buying abroad.

Beuc, the European consumers' organisation, says that there will be no single market for cars when the trade barriers fall throughout the Community on January 1 1993. The European car market is characterised by price differences between member states, typically in excess of 40 per cent, and consumers trying to import a car who face "serious, sometimes insurmountable" obstacles, it says.

Manufacturers and national authorities are condemned for impeding consumers looking for bargains, despite EC competition rules stipulating that standard price differences for the same car in different EC markets should not exceed 12 per cent and that customers must be free to import from elsewhere.

The UK has the highest pre-tax car prices, and procedures for importing a car are among the "longest and most complicated" in the Community. Beuc's latest survey shows no real improvement, compared with 1989, according to Laura Mosca, the organisation's chief economist and author of the report. The latest survey compared retail prices of 13 car models. The most striking disparity was a three-door 1100cc Opel Corsa, costing 51 per cent more in the UK than in Belgium before tax.

Beuc is calling for stronger action, for sanctions against dealers refusing to sell to foreigners and a new EC office to handle consumer complaints. Meanwhile, Sir Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, has told the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders that "The commission confirms that it will actively intervene against measures, whether direct or indirect, by car producers, importers or dealers which keep the Community divided into national markets."

Lamont forecast for growth challenged

By Colin Narsbrough, Economics Correspondent

THE economy will grow by 0.5 per cent next year, only half as much as Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast in his Autumn Statement, with unemployment rising throughout the year, according to the Society of Business Economists.

The society's forecasting group predicts that weak recovery will start in the second quarter, but that a continued lack of confidence, fears about unemployment, high personal debt and the subdued housing market will dampen the rebound in activity. The weak world background is expected to limit the improvement in exports.

A further contraction of 0.5 per cent in the gross domestic product this quarter, despite the three-point cut in base rate since mid-September, is expected to produce a full point fall for the whole of 1992, in line with the Treasury forecast.

Although the group expects the real GDP to strike a more respectable annual growth rate of 2.2 per cent in 1994, as consumer demand and investment pick up, its longer-term assessment is for average growth between 1993 and 1997 at a below trend 1.9 per cent. In the subsequent five

years, growth is expected to average only 2.3 per cent.

Low growth into the next century will be accompanied by low inflation, which will average 3.6 per cent for the next ten years, and average earnings growth of an average 5.3 per cent, the forecast said. Relatively weak growth is expected to leave unemployment very high, averaging 2.75 million, or nearly 10 per cent of the workforce, over the period until 2002.

The society anticipates that base rates, now at 7 per cent, will average 7.6 per cent over the next five years before easing back to 7 per cent for the subsequent five years. The pound is expected to average DM2.50 in 1993-97, falling to DM2.40 in 1998-2002.

A survey of the society's members, more than 600 economists from the City, industry and academia, showed that 78 per cent expect GDP growth of zero to 2 per cent next year. Only 7 per cent expect another outright decline. On interest rates, the survey showed 47 per cent of respondents expecting base rate of over 7 per cent and up to 8 per cent next year, with 36 per cent looking for base rate in excess of 8 per cent.

Vodafone rings up £160m in an expanding market

By Our City Staff

VODAFONE, the mobile telephone company demerged from Racal just over a year ago, has reported first-half pre-tax profits up 23.4 per cent to £160 million on the back of sales 12 per cent higher at £320 million.

The group said the "market for mobile communications, although affected by the recession, continues to grow. The group is performing well and the results for the year should be good."

But the group said that it was unlikely to be able to increase profit margins fur-

ther. LowCall, the low cost service launched to counter rival Cellnet's plans to broaden the mobile telephone market, has started well. The group has so far attracted 24,000 subscribers to LowCall.

Vodafone ended the half year with net cash of almost £158 million and funded £150 million of capital spending internally. Earnings rose 23 per cent to 10.76p a share, out of which a half-year dividend of 3.43p, an advance of 20 per cent, is to be paid.

Tempos, page 28

Confidence rises among shoppers in America

By Our Economics Correspondent

AMERICAN consumers' confidence about economic prospects picked up sharply this month for the first time since June, in line with the recent spate of more encouraging economic indicators, according to the Conference Board.

With the presidential election over, the research group's confidence index showed a jump from 54.6 in October to 65.5 in November. Separate government figures, out yesterday, added to the brighter picture. Orders for durable goods, defined as items expected to last more than three

years, surged 3.9 per cent last month, the biggest monthly gain for almost a year and a half, boosted by car and aircraft orders.

The October improvement was much stronger than Wall Street had expected and followed a rise of only 0.3 per cent in September.

Despite yesterday's figures, confidence has only recovered to a level consistent with a lacklustre recovery.

More than two out of five respondents to the survey still consider current conditions "bad".

Coach firm priced at £59.4m

National Express, the long-distance coach operator, has priced itself at £59.4 million, at the lower end of the expected range of between £60 million and £80 million.

The flotation puts a value of £5.58 million on the holding retained by Ray McEnhill, chief executive, and Adam Mills, deputy chief executive. They are selling £619,700 of shares and led a £12 million management buy-in in July last year. Mr McEnhill and Mr Adams owned about a fifth of the equity that went into the buy-in.

The shares have been priced at 165p each, an effective price-earnings multiple of 12.

Amber ahead

Amber Industrial Holdings' pre-tax profits were £1.5 million in the six months to September (£1.2 million). The interim dividend is 5.5p (4.5p).

Kalamazoo in red

Kalamazoo, the computer group, expects a profit for the year to March, despite a pre-tax loss of £86,000 in the first half (£1.5 million profit). The interim dividend is 0.25p (0.525p).

Apollo slides

Apollo Metals, the aluminium processing firm, saw pre-tax profits fall to £1.3 million (£2.03 million) in the year to end-September. An unchanged final dividend of 2.3p a share leaves the total at 3.45p.

Dawson International sees its profits slip

By Our City Staff

DAWSON International, the textiles group, saw a fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September, from £16.2 million to £15.5 million.

The shares dipped 3p to 224p. Ronald Miller, the chairman, said: "I see no easing in recessionary pressures, which have adversely impacted the half year."

"Although in time there should be benefits from lower interest rates and more favourable foreign exchange rates in the UK, these have to be set against an international background with more countries experiencing the effects of recession."

He added: "In this difficult

environment we are taking all necessary steps to achieve cost savings to keep our competitive edge while at the same time, with our strong financial position, continuing to invest for the future."

The dividend is held at 2.9p share out of earnings slightly up from 6.4p to 6.5p. The tax charge fell from 30.7 to 27.8 per cent and the interest charge dropped from £3.7 million to £1.8 million. The results suffered from a £1 million write-down.

The Premier fibres and yarns division raised operating profit from £7.4 million to £9.8 million, but Dawson consumer products slipped from £12.5 million to £8.5 million.

TED BATH



Cooler climate: John Embury, left, and Ronald Miller

Printing group to raise £20m

By Our City Staff

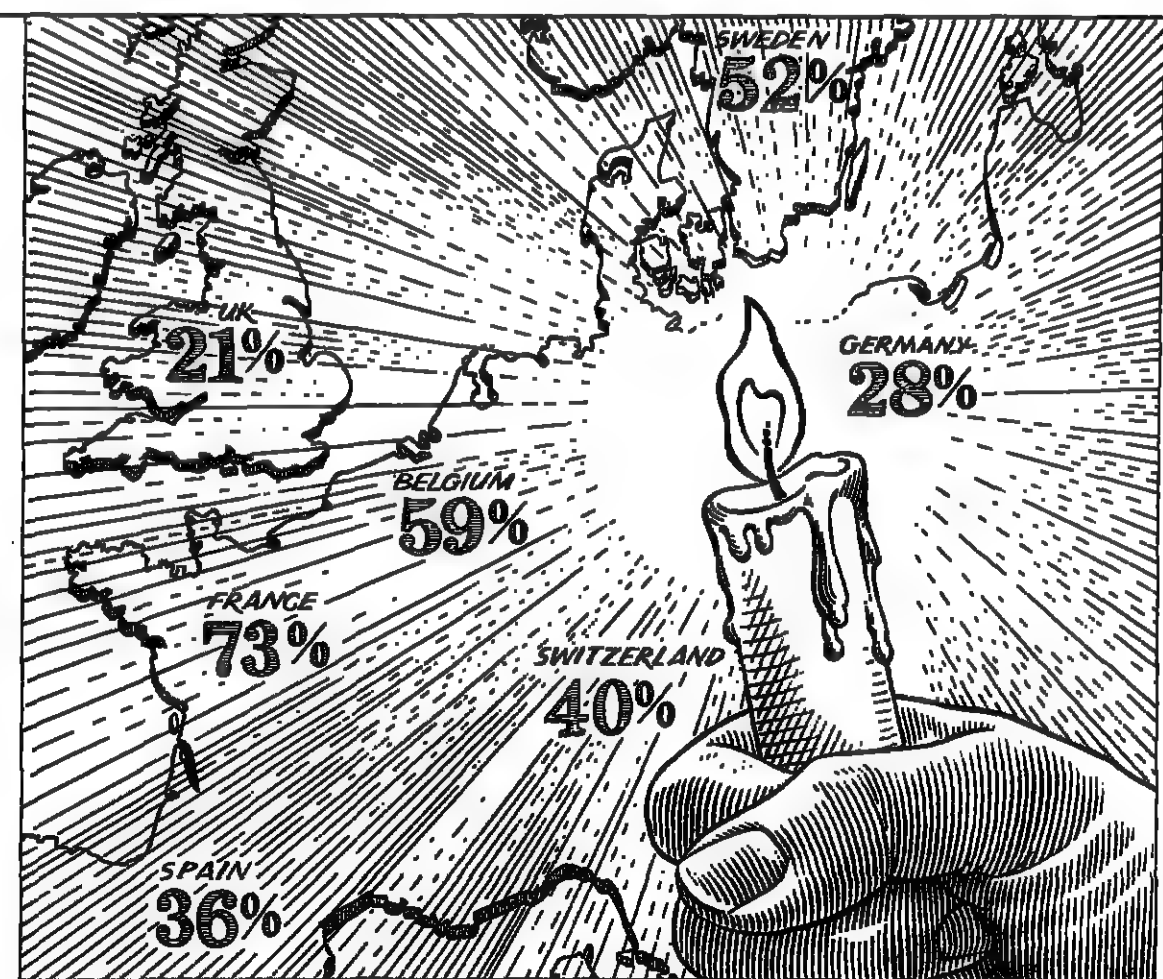
HUNTERPRINT is raising £20 million in a rights issue as part of a financial restructuring. The board says that the group will not be able to continue trading without the reorganisation.

The troubled printing group incurred a pre-tax loss of £12.2 million in the year to September 27, including a £3.8 million exceptional loss. The final dividend is passed. It is hoped that a nominal final will be paid next year.

The results mean a deficit on shareholders' funds of £8.6 million and bank borrowings of £12.2 million. The reorganisation will eliminate financial obligations on the group's finance and operating leases. Barclays Bank will provide new bank facilities.

To reduce the share capital, existing shares, down 1p to 5p, will be consolidated with ten shares becoming one new 15p share and one 35p deferred share. The deferred shares will then be cancelled. The rights issue of 40 million new shares at 50p each will be placed by James Capel, subject to shareholders having the right to buy 2.23738 for every ten held.

The exceptional items include restructuring costs, writing down assets, payments to Sir Ian MacGregor, the former chairman, for termination of his service agreement, and provisions for outstanding litigation.



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Pascoe jumps back to head sports firm

By Rodney Hobson

ALAN PASCOE, the former British Olympic hurdler, is to take control of his sports sponsorship and event management company again. He heads a team buying Alan Pascoe Associates from Aegis, the media buying group, for a total of £1.5 million.

For Aegis, the sale is an admission of failure that crowns an already miserable year. Aegis is writing off £8 million on the deal and accepting responsibility for defending a court case brought against APA in America. Mr Pascoe, a director of Aegis and APA, and Edward Leask, a director of APA, have formed The Sponsorship Group to buy APA. They

will pay £1 million once the deal is approved by Aegis shareholders and another £500,000 in July next year.

"This agreement suits both companies. It allows Aegis to focus its resources on its core business, while we continue to develop our UK operations, further tailoring our services to client requirements," said Mr Pascoe, who will leave the Aegis main board.

Aegis has agreed to take responsibility for claims against Alan Pascoe Associates, including a legal action brought against the company in the US over the marketing of soccer.

Alan Pascoe Associates was founded in 1971 as MSW Promotions and bought by Aegis in 1986. Companies in the

group include Grand Slam Sports, a television production company, Sports Management, a perimeter advertising company, and Bagenal Harvey Organisation, a personality management company.

Alan Pascoe Associates made a pre-tax loss of £837,000 in 1991 and has made further losses this year in its international operations. It had net liabilities of £14.3 million, including asset write-offs and provisions for future losses. It owes the Aegis group £6.3 million.

This year Aegis has forced out its chairman, cancelled its stock market listings in Paris and New York and seen its rights issue flop. The shares — 215p a year ago — were unchanged at 20p.

Upbeat tune returns Thorn EMI to favour

THORN EMI's insistence that Virgin Music, which chipped in an initial £5 million to group interim pre-tax profits, will make a "significant" contribution to year-end results goes a long way towards deflecting City criticism that Thorn paid a fancy price at £560 million to add to its music division.

While pre-tax profits rose 10.9 per cent to £105.2 million in the period ending September 30, and despite the increase in the interim dividend from 8.6p to 9p a share, Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, has yet to win all City hearts and minds over the question of net earnings. But come year end, he could well have won them.

Some earnings dilution after Thorn EMI's March rights issue of one-for-four at 650p to help pay for Virgin Music was expected, so the 6.9 per cent dip to 16.6p a share in half-time net earnings comes as no surprise. But having already seen net earnings eased from a peak 63.4p a share in 1990, to 47.2p a share last year, the City cries out for relief.

The group's assertion that this financial year should show some improvement over the past two years is encouraging, especially as life in retailing remains tough. Costs continue to be trimmed, poorly performing interests continue to be weeded out. Meanwhile, the core music business remains upbeat and integration of Virgin Music is going well.

The interest charge is usefully lower at £15.5 million (£24.5 million), interest cover at 7.7 times will be higher by year end, and rationalisation measures taken recently should lead to annual savings of about £20 million.

There is a cloud over the outlook for brown goods and the group's defence interests, but an underlying performance of £289 million (£255.1 million) complemented by



On line for a better year: Gerry Whent, of Vodafone, said the LowCall tariff had got off to a "flying start"

£41 million from Virgin, should see year-end pre-tax profits at £330 million, for net earnings of 50.9p a share.

The shares, a depressed market recently on Virgin doubts, rose 20p to 79.5p, to trade on 15.6 times prospective earnings and are rightly back in favour.

Argyll Group

ARGYLL Group is right to sound a note of caution over the competitive environment

the big food retailers are operating in as the vital Christmas period approaches. But the latest interim reporting season, now almost finished, suggests that the big three at least, Sainsbury, Tesco and Argyll's Safeway operation, have little to be too concerned about.

After the lead of the other two, Safeway has shown impressive margin growth, of 0.7 percentage points to 7.3 per cent. Sales were up 10 per cent, seven percentage points

of growth from new stores, one point like-for-like from existing stores and two points from inflation. Operating profits were ahead 22 per cent to £155 million.

The advance has come from the familiar mix of factors that has allowed food retailers to outstrip most other sectors of the economy, from concentration on more higher-value products, such as ready meals, and from gains from more cost-effective superstores already opened. This

last should result in some slackening of margin growth into the second half, given that this period will see the majority of openings for the year, while Safeway's losses on freehold sites makes its expansion programme relatively expensive. Future margins will benefit accordingly from both.

Tony MacNeary, at County NatWest, has scaled back his view on this year's profits before tax by a couple of million pounds to £420 mil-

lion. This leaves the shares, after a mild fall from the year's high yesterday, on a multiple of just short of 14, against 17 for Sainsbury and little more than 11 for Tesco. They remain a core holding.

Vodafone

VODAFONE, thought of in the City as Rascal's better half, has tracked the performance of the FT-Actuaries All-Share index so closely this year it is uncanny. It sank when the market thought Labour would win the general election in April, soared when the Conservatives got in, then fell again when dealers realised the green shoots of recovery had dropped off in the winter frost.

In the past few weeks, Vodafone has begun to outpace the FT-Actuaries All-Share index as the launch of the LowCall tariff for infrequent users of portable telephones. The question facing investors, however, is whether Vodafone's outperformance will continue.

One clue lies in the market reaction to yesterday's figures. The shares rose only 14p to 40.1p despite a better than expected rise in pre-tax profits of 23.4 per cent to £160.2 million and a bigger than expected dividend rise of 20 per cent to 3.43p.

Gerry Whent, Vodafone chief executive, said that LowCall had got off to a "flying start", attracting 24,000 subscribers so far.

Brokers expect £320 million from Vodafone in the year to March (£272 million). This produces a 21.6p of earnings, putting Vodafone on an earnings multiple of 18.6 at yesterday's share price. A dividend of 1p for the full year (5.8p) would put the shares on a prospective yield of 2.3 per cent. At such ratings, the shares seem well up with current events but are reassuringly thought of in the City as a defensive growth stock.

Dow moves higher in early trading

New York — Blue chips were firm in morning trade as bargain hunting, particularly for technology issues, gave support, traders said. They added that the market overall was lacking momentum despite a rise in durable goods for October, a 3.9 per cent increase after September's revised 0.3 per cent rise.

Robert Walberg, an MMS International analyst, said: "There's no catalyst to really boost the market. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 22.42 points to 3,245.46. In the broad market, advancing shares led declining issues six to five."

□ Tokyo — Shares pushed their winning streak into a fourth day to close firmer but off early highs in quiet trade. A widespread sense that the market has bottomed and the start of a parliamentary debate on the government's supplementary budget cheered sentiment, brokers said. The Nikkei average was up 62.49 points, or 0.37 per cent, to 17,096.09.

□ Hong Kong — Shares finished sharply higher on bar-

gain hunting, aimed mainly at China-concept issues, but turnover remained light, brokers said. The Hang Seng index rose 77.55 points, or 1.3 per cent, to close at 5,972.52 after pushing within a few points of the key 6,000 level.

□ Singapore — Shares ended mixed with profit-taking alternating with selective accumulation, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index ended 0.13 point higher at 1,419.34. Falls led gains by 128 to 99.

□ Sydney — Share prices closed slightly higher as optimism continued and heavy activity in Westpac and Sagasoo boosted turnover. The All-Ordinaries index closed 3.7 points higher at 1,450.2 after profit-takers took the index off a peak of 1,454.3.

□ Frankfurt — The Dax index ended floor trade at the day's low after sliding in the first half of the session on dashed hopes for a German rate cut, an easier dollar and poor earnings outlooks for two blue chips. The Dax closed at 1,510.28 points, down 20.61 from Monday's close. (Reuters)

May 24 Nov 23	May 24 Nov 23	May 24 Nov 23	May 24 Nov 23
Index	Index	Index	Index
FTSE 100	3,245.46	FTSE 100	3,245.46
Nikkei 225	17,096.09	Nikkei 225	17,096.09
Hang Seng	5,972.52	Hang Seng	5,972.52
Straits Times	1,419.34	Straits Times	1,419.34
Dax	1,510.28	Dax	1,510.28
Sydney All-Ord	1,450.2	Sydney All-Ord	1,450.2
Hong Kong	17,096.09	Hong Kong	17,096.09
...

REVISED INTEREST RATES

FROM 25 NOVEMBER 1992

Current Issues	%GROSS	%NET
NINETY DAY ACCOUNT		
FOR BALANCES OF £25,000 AND ABOVE	8.06 (7.47)	8.04 (8.00)
£25,000 - £49,999	7.16 (6.60)	7.14 (7.10)
£10,000 - £24,999	6.56 (5.96)	6.54 (6.50)
£5,000 - £9,999	5.80 (5.21)	5.78 (5.74)
£500 - £4,999	5.50 -	5.48 -

MONEY MASTER ACCOUNT	%GROSS	%NET
FOR BALANCES OF £20,000 AND ABOVE	8.40 (5.70)	8.38 (5.68)
£10,000 - £19,999	8.56 (5.25)	8.54 (5.15)
£5,000 - £9,999	8.10 (4.40)	8.08 (4.30)
£250 - £4,999	4.40 (3.70)	4.38 (3.68)
£1 - £249	1.00 -	0.98 -

TESSA	7.65	-
CHILDREN'S A/C	5.50	4.13
PREFERENCE SHARES	1.00	0.75
DEPOSITS	1.00	0.75
SHORT TERM DEPOSIT A/C	1.00	0.75
NON RESIDENTS A/C	4.50	-
CHARITIES A/C	8.50	-
SOLICITORS NON RESIDENT DEPOSIT A/C	1.85	-
SOLICITORS GENERAL CLIENTS A/C	2.05	-

Closed Issues	%GROSS	%NET
SIXTY DAY ACCOUNT		
FOR BALANCES OF £50,000 AND ABOVE	7.00 (6.35)	6.98 (6.33)
£25,000 - £49,999	6.30 (5.65)	6.28 (5.63)
£10,000 - £24,999	5.75 (5.10)	5.73 (5.08)
£5,000 - £9,999	5.00 (4.35)	4.98 (4.33)
£500 - £4,999	4.65 -	4.63 -
INVESTING SHARES	1.35	1.01
SOVEREIGN SHARES	1.50	1.15
PREFERENCE SHARES	1.00	0.75
DEPOSITS	1.00	0.75

HIGH OPTION TERM SHARES	%GROSS	%NET
11th Issue	3.50	2.63
12th Issue	3.80	2.85
13th Issue	4.30	3.23
14th Issue	4.00	3.00
15th Issue	4.00	3.00
FOR BALANCES OF £25,000 AND ABOVE	5.00	3.75
£10,000 - £24,999	4.50	3.38
£5,000 - £9,999	4.00	3.00
£500 - £4,999	3.50	2.63
16th Issue	4.50	3.38
17th Issue	4.50	3.38
FOR BALANCES OF £25,000 AND ABOVE	4.85	3.64
£10,000 - £24,999	4.50	3.38
£5,000 - £9,999	4.00	3.00
18th Issue	6.20 (5.50)	6.15 (5.45)
19th Issue	7.00 (6.30)	6.95 (6.25)

Monthly Rates shown in brackets
Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. The Net Rate is shown for illustrative purposes only and assumes tax at the basic rate of 25%.
Interest rates quoted may vary.

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

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Banking shares race ahead

ANALYSTS are starting to have second thoughts about prospects for the battered banking sector and seem to be taking the view that the worst may be over.

Bank shares were racing away yesterday after County NatWest and Hoare Govett started making positive noises about the sector. Barclays, up 15p at 366p, featured highly with County, which is forecasting a strong profits recovery during the next few years.

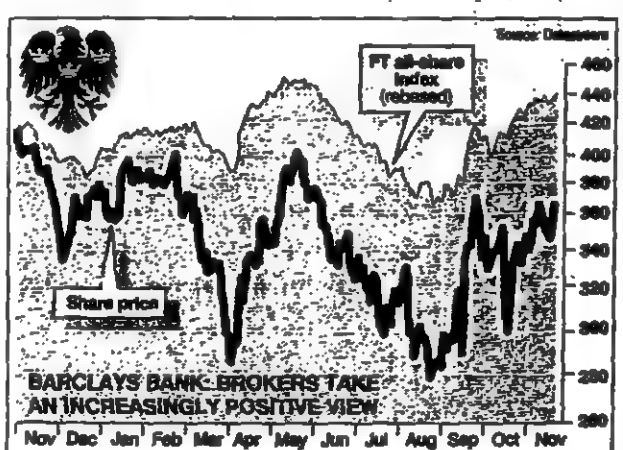
John Aiken, the analyst, is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits this year from £533 million to £75 million, but expects the group to bounce back to £520 million in 1993 and £1.35 billion the year after. He said: "There has been far too much pessimism. We have always been bears of the sector, but estimates are now far too low. We expect a big recovery in bad debt provisions."

Mr Aiken is also looking for a better performance from County's parent, National Westminster, up 3p at 387p, where he is forecasting profits will rise from £450 million this year to £1.4 billion in 1994. There were also gains in Lloyds of 6p to 507p, Royal Bank of Scotland, up 18p to 365p, and Abbey National, up 3p to 365p.

The rest of the equity market spent a volatile session, with share prices wiping out an early fall of almost 20 points, helped by an encouraging performance from the pound which led to renewed talk of a further cut in base rates soon.

The Bank of England is issuing £2.5 billion of Treasury 8 per cent 2003 on a when issued basis. Dealers breathed a sigh of relief that the government chose to peg the issue at £2.5 billion and not issue up to £3 billion as some forecasts had suggested.

The rest of the market was pulled higher by a steeper performance by the pound leading to suggestions that another interest rates cut may soon be on the way.
On the futures market, the long gilt opened lower but recovered to close more than 1/2 higher at £100 1/2 as 25,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 8 1/2 per cent rose 10 ticks to £99 1/2, while in shorts Exchequer 10 1/4 per cent 1995 firmed two ticks to £108 1/2.



An opening rise on Wall Street of more than 30 points, on the back of the latest American Consumer Confidence Index, also cheered sentiment. The index ended the session 4.2 higher at 2,727.1.
Turnover remained modest, with only 578 million shares changing hands. It was clear that many of the movements to extend its recent revival, with investors convinced that consumers will embark on their traditional Christmas spending spree soon. Boots rose 11p to 497p, Dixons 5p to 238p, Kingfisher 5p to 559p, Marks and Spencer 2p to 324p, and WH Smith A 15p to 475p. Argyll, the Safeway supermarket chain,

BUYERS were out in force for Queens Moat Houses, the hotel chain, up 1 1/2p at 43p as 7 million shares changed hands. They have slumped from 92p to 26p this year on debt worries. But hopes are high that some good news may be on the way.

in the index were generated by activity on the futures market, where a seller of 700 contracts, equivalent to 700,000 shares, made his presence felt. But the situation recovered later in the day after UBS Phillips & Drew was reckoned to have started buying the future.
The stores sector continued

higher at 795p after weighing in with better than expected half-year figures. Pre-tax profits were up from £94.9 million to £105.2 million despite most City forecasts that profits would see a small downturn. The group said that most of the improvement had stemmed from improved performances by the music division and video and television rental.

Meanwhile, the group has been cutting costs with the sale of some of its Rumbelow store chain. But Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, gave a warning that the outlook remained difficult.

Half-year figures from Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, also made pleasant reading, with pre-tax profits up 23 per cent at £160 million. The company now boasts 750,000 subscribers with the network covering 90 per cent of the country. The shares responded with a rise of 12p to 399p.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, fell 19p to £10.27 after Floris Mullers, the co-chairman, said that the British economy was still deteriorating. He said he could see no sign of an improvement until the second half of next year.

Carbury Schweppes fell 8p to 43p, worried that the group is about to spend money on a major expansion programme in Spain. Dealers say that the group wants to bolster its loss-making Spanish soft drink operation where it has been losing market share.

MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH FUNDS

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GPA faces lower flying future

Rebuilding GPA's financial engine will be a long haul if the banks agree not to scrap it altogether. The loss to be declared for the six months to end-September will have plenty of one-off factors, but is a pointer to much leaner times ahead. The golden days are gone for a long time. GPA would probably emerge in quite different shape, and perhaps in different hands.

The groups that have a say in the survival of Tony Ryan's remarkable creation have strong mutual vested interests in keeping GPA in the air. Aircraft manufacturers need the markets that GPA has opened up, beyond those that are served by other means in China, the former Eastern bloc and Latin America. Some banks and financial institutions are competitors, but would dread the impact on aircraft values of a collapse, not least because the total aircraft market would shrink without GPA's expertise and distribution system. Financial institutions that own GPA shares or paper are among those that would suffer from the likely ensuing depression of the market for mature aircraft operating leases as financial assets.

Unlike a conventional business that has over-extended its range and run into a liquidity storm, GPA cannot separate its financial standing from trading. They are intertwined. Loss of financial status damages profit-earning capacity. In essence, GPA makes turns on the torrent of assets and finance passing through its books. These returns will shrink. If loans are refinanced, interest costs will rise, albeit in a climate of lower interest rates. Lower standing on the bond markets will have the same effect. That is likely to shrink lease margins. In recent years, most of GPA's profits have come from sales of mature leases. These sales realised the discounts GPA was able to extract from manufacturers because it could buy in quantity and fill order books. Manufacturers will surely agree to waive order commitments but will want to shrink those discounts in return. Investors in aircraft leases will also demand higher returns as their investment standing falls.

In the heady days of expansion, GPA took on several contingent liabilities that seemed small at the time, but which will now be examined closely by bankers. Provided these do not cause too much alarm, the finance and aircraft industries will want to help GPA back on its feet. Hopes that management will just pick itself up, dust itself off and start all over again to trawl the market for large refills of capital, still look optimistic. A different GPA might emerge, acting more as service business and less as principal, at least until it can restore its ratings.

Testing the Buba

Members of the Bundesbank council meeting this morning will not be in a good mood. On one flank, triumphant speculators are having another go at the franc, whose defences look weaker today than in September, when sterling was their main target. That has intensified the chorus of political pressure from Paris, via Brussels and London, for Germany to cut interest rates to shore up the remaining ERM core. Back on the home front, high interest rates have not yet had the desired effect on money supply, which would have allowed the Bundesbank to cut rates again without losing face. Money growth should look less feverish in the new year, but that could be too late to rebuff the speculative hordes. Meanwhile, the European Commission's attempt to develop EC economic management from Brussels and browbeat the Bundesbank will surely deny any remaining illusions in Frankfurt that the Maastricht assurance of independence for an EC central bank will be worth the paper it is printed on.

Western investors falter at factory gates of Russia's brave new world

The move to a market economy has resulted in soaring interest rates and inflation.

Bruce Clark analyses a business in transition

In the days of Good King George, foreign visitors who wanted to see perestroika in action would sometimes head for the grimy buildings in northern Moscow called the Low Voltage Electrical Equipment Factory. Under the guidance of its energetic general manager, Yuri Korolyov, they could observe what for several years was one of the very few manufacturing units in the country to have transformed itself into a private co-operative.

Last year, as the Soviet Union was in its death throes, the enterprise confirmed its trail-blazing reputation by becoming one of the first to proclaim itself a joint stock company, with articles, share certificates and dividends that superficially resembled those of a western firm. In yet another innovation, Mr Korolyov invited a Singapore maker of electronic goods to put up half the initial capital, thereby becoming one of the first outsiders to take an equity stake in Russian manufacturing.

For the investor, a businessman with a long-standing presence on the Moscow market, 6.6 million roubles — then about \$50,000 — must have seemed an inexpensive way of buying a half-share in a factory employing 1,600 people. During those twilight years, when people still thought the Soviet system could be reformed, even perfected, rather than abolished, Mr Korolyov would eagerly tell visitors the merits of his decision to declare partial independence from the state planning system. For one, it gave the management more freedom to allocate resources between its various product lines: circuit boards, hair driers, extension cords, small motors and so on. As long as the factory promised to remain in the same broad sector of light electrical goods, its relations with the state bureaucrats, who were still quite powerful, would be quite cordial. For another, the co-operative structure, and later the share option scheme, were seen as ingenious ways of motivating and retaining employees when (incredibly as it now seems) every Russian manager was complaining of a labour shortage.

Eleven months after the Soviet Union ceased to exist, those breezy comments seem light years away. If the factory, now with the catchier name of Progress-Elektro, was once a model of perestroika, that was because its problems, and its valiant efforts to overcome them, were absolutely typical of the late Soviet period. Now, in the economic roller-coaster called independent Russia, the company faces an entirely different set of blessings and curses; and it provides a revealing microcosm of the economy in which Boris Yeltsin is inviting British businessmen to invest. A year ago, the situation facing Mr Korolyov — a genial, no-nonsense pragmatist — would have been familiar to a western production manager, or to some extent a personnel manager, but baffling for a western accountant. With interest rates and input prices kept artificially low, he was never subjected to anything a westerner would recognise as a financial discipline.

Nor was marketing an issue: anything he could physically produce was bought automatically by other enterprises in the state planning system or, in the case of consumer goods, snapped up by a desperately under-supplied public. The manager's task lay in cajoling a vast array of suppliers across the Soviet Union and beyond into honouring contracts, in hiring and keeping labour, and in fire-fighting whenever problems arose on the assembly line. Now, with the price of everything, including credit, labour and raw materials, deregulated and soaring, Mr Korolyov lives in a different world.

Procuring inputs is much easier, as long as one is prepared to pay handsomely and they do not come from one of the many former Soviet regions engulfed by ethnic conflict, such as Georgia, where Progress-Elektro had an associate company. "With money, you can get anything you want," says Mr Korolyov, echoing a comment heard a dozen times a day in different contexts as Russians adjust to the realities of the market.

The workforce has been reduced to 600, while their average monthly pay packet has more than quintupled to keep pace with inflation. Markets are now being analysed much more closely: sales to the crisis-stricken heavy industrial sector have plunged, leaving some parts of the factory idle, while demand for consumer goods remains remarkably buoyant, despite huge increases in prices. Sales to other former Soviet republics have also plummeted, reflecting the collapse of the arcane accounting system under which different parts of the union conducted their commerce.

With annual interest rates well into three figures, the company is wary of borrowing money and tries to finance any re-tooling from internally-generated resources as far as possible.

It might suggest that Progress-Elektro, where busts of Lenin were much in evidence until a year ago, is making a healthy, if painful, transition to the free market. The snag is that inflation rates of up to 25 per cent a month, and a rouble exchange rate that has plunged from 120 per dollar in January to about 400 now, make it nightmarishly difficult to plan almost anything at all.

"If only the economic situation would stabilise, even at a low level," Mr Korolyov sighs, along with every other industrial manager in the country. Next year, his accountants are hazardously guessing that nominal turnover will be a little over 1 billion roubles, on which they hope to make



"With money, you can get anything you want": Yuri Korolyov, general manager of Progress-Elektro, once a model of perestroika

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Warren buries the hatchet

JUST when you thought muddling over Harrods was fading away, there come reports of a fascinating scene at the Plaistons Hall last week. Kenneth Warren, former Tory MP and chairman of the select committee on trade and industry, was said to have erupted, spilling wine down his front, and uttering cries of "conspiracy" after finding himself seated next to Peter Bolliger, Swiss managing director of the Knightsbridge store. Warren, while present with Bolliger at the dinner, held by the Hong Kong Development Council, denies such anti-social, though colourful, behaviour. He has had run-ins with Harrods in the past — observers will recall talk of a dirty tricks campaign being waged against him but says that, contrary to reports, he used the dinner on Thursday to make friendly overtures. "There was no red wine spill. I was not incensed, but I did say to Bolliger it was amazing to be sitting opposite him and we agreed to have lunch together. I think I even offered to pay," Warren says. He is now "looking forward to catching up with Harrods. I bear them no ill will," he says.

Down at heel

LET them have shoes... For those who are down on their uppers, Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, has come up with a revolutionary idea for its Christmas appeal. Instead of writing out fat cheques, the bank, inspired no



doubt by its sumptuous offices on the corner of Fleet Street and Shoe Lane, is asking its 1,300 well-shod employees to donate a pair of their old shoes to London's homeless. Collection boxes for the worn-out soles have been placed, somewhat unhygienically, outside its snack bar. The appeal has already provoked embarrassment and engendered many bad taste jokes in-house about low-budget ways of helping the down-at-heel.

Lock and keys

WHEN is a strong room not a strong room? As Barclays cuts 500 branches, potential buyers of its old premises would be well advised to double-check the strong room is intact, as Barclays seems to be somewhat mealy-mouthed on the subject. Tony Good, the public relations man, has just bought Barclays' old Pewsey branch and, to his intense irritation, has found that Barclays has removed the lock and keys to his strong room. "The estate agents particulars specified a

strong room. To my mind, by definition it can't be a strong room unless you can lock it. Good fumes. David Turner, head of Barclays property division, argues lockability is irrelevant. "It looks like a strong room, it has a door like a strong room, it is a strong room," he insists. According to Turner, Barclays removes the locks — replacement value £5,000 — not out of meanness but for security reasons, but with 500 sets of keys soon to be jangling loose, word is policy may soon have to be reversed.

Going solo

AFTER being forced to re-write his business cards 14 times in 20 years, while remaining at the same address throughout, Simon Barrow, 55, is about to go solo. Barrow is the last surviving director of the old Charles Barker group who is still at its former offices at 30 Farringdon Street, despite numerous changes in the firm's name and ownership. The firm became BNB Resources in 1989, after it sold the Charles Barker name for £10 million to Corporate Communications, and Barrow stayed on as chief executive of Barkers Human Resources. He is now buying its People in Business consultancy, investing some of the windfall he made on the float of Charles Barker in 1986. "It's all part of the strange amoeba-like history of Number 30," Barrow says. With clients like Boots and Esso moving with him, his fifteenth business card should prove his longest lasting yet.

DEBRA ISAAC

Amstrad patience could be rewarded

From Mr John S. Gaskin
Sir, Being a small individual shareholder who, as Mr Sugar rightly supposes in his letter (Business Letters, November 16) does not understand "the technical nature of these complicated transactions" (to buy my Amstrad shares back — with my money, apparently — at a price much lower than I paid for them), I feel the need of some explanation why I should not hold on to my shares in the hope that mine will benefit as much as his from whatever plans he has for the future. He already owns 34 per cent of the shares,

as he reminds us, and hopes soon to own many more, presumably because he believes they can be made worth more than the price now offered. With that in mind, and the duty of Mr Sugar and his board to deal fairly as between themselves and other shareholders, it seems to me reasonable to suppose that the value of my shares, as well as his, may rise if I am willing to be patient.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. GASKIN,
5 Meadow Lane,
Fetchnam,
Leatherhead, Surrey.

Water company rejects monthly payment

From Mr David R. Way
Sir, I cannot accept Janet Langdon's assurances on behalf of the Water Services Association that there is no need for customers to pay in advance for water. My own supplier, the East Worcester Water Company, offers two alternatives. These are payment in two annual instalments at the beginning of each half year or payment by direct debit in eight monthly instalments from April to November.

This year I arranged a standing order for 12 equal payments on the first of each month. This was rejected out-

right by the water company. When I appealed to Ofwat they told me that the water companies are legally entitled to payment in advance and that, although they may offer other options at their discretion, the actual method of payment is not negotiable.

If I were in business I would regard a guaranteed payment in advance as highly satisfactory. I wonder if the water companies pay their suppliers in advance?
Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. WAY,
Redemere,
Greenhill Park Road,
Evesham, Worcestershire.

NatWest Fame at the customer's expense

From Mrs Stella Spiegl
Sir, I venture to suggest that NatWest's plans codenamed Project Fame (November 18) to completely rebuild its 2,700 branches, will not meet customers' demands. In fact, quite the opposite since the customer will be paying for it all.

The customer is interested only in the bottom line — in

this case bank charges, and I daresay most would be content with a "tin hut bank" if it meant charges would revert to what they used to be — value for our money.
Yours faithfully,
STELLA SPIEGL,
Scientific Era Publications,
6 St George's Street,
Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Fixing the rate

From N. A. D. Grant
Sir, The letter from David Metcalfe (November 12) concerning the calculation of finance house base rate (FHBR) indicates some misunderstanding of how FHBR is calculated.

The method used by the association to calculate FHBR has been in place for over 20 years and is wholly objective, the association having no discretion in the matter but working to an agreed formula based upon the three month inter-bank rate. For the calculation, a leading firm of money brokers takes a weekly average of the three month inter-bank rate at 11.00 each working day. This weekly rate is then notified to the association which, on the last working day of each month, calculates FHBR by averaging the last eight weekly figures and rounding up the resulting figure to the next half point.

In a time of falling interest rates there will obviously be a time lag before FHBR follows suit. In a time of rising interest rates FHBR will be below base rate for a period of time.

The rationale behind this calculation is reviewed regularly, although any future change would not effect agreements in force.
N. A. D. GRANT (Director),
Finance & Leasing Association,
18 Upper Grosvenor St, SW1.

Power of competition

From Mr E. P. Sharmam
Sir, Commenting in Business News (November 18) on National Power's profit increase of 10 per cent you state: "The increase came at a time of heavy overcapacity in generating plant, strong electricity prices and the first downturn in power demand for a decade." So much for government inspired competition.
Sincerely,
E. P. SHARMAN,
9 Hill Close, Leamington Spa.

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No	Company	Group	Price	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	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How the BBC beat its critics

The publication of the BBC green paper comes at the end of a decade of scrutiny. Peter Fiddick and Melinda Wittstock report

After a decade under fierce attack from its critics, mainly led by Margaret Thatcher and free market or right-wing Tories, the BBC yesterday won an important victory when the green paper on its future affirmed the Major government's commitment to its role as Britain's purveyor of public service broadcasting financed by the licence fee.

Ten years ago, when the then Mrs Thatcher was in Downing Street, the outlook was distinctly more threatening, not to say ominous. Few would have thought that the survival into the 21st century of a BBC, funded by a licence fee, was even the remotest possibility. After victory in the Falklands conflict, Mrs Thatcher, soon to win a resounding victory in the 1983 election, was nearing the zenith of her fortunes and itching to do something, anything, about the arrogant BBC. Meanwhile, under Alasdair Milne, appointed director-general in 1982, the BBC was nearing the nadir of its fortunes.

Its neutral reporting during the Falklands conflict — which refused to join the jingoistic tabloid language of "our boys" — had already infuriated Mrs Thatcher. Then, within the next four years, the BBC suffered a disastrous series of blunders. For Mr Milne they were terminal.

First an interview with a Sinn Féin activist was broadcast in the *Real Lives* programme. Then in "Maggie's Militant Tendency" *Panorama* alleged that there were links between Conservative MPs and ultra-right-wing groups. A subsequent libel action ended with a BBC apology, the payment of damages and costs to two Tory MPs, and a bill of £500,000.

After the BBC's reporting of the Libyan bombing raid, Norman Tebbit, then chairman of the Tory party, produced a dossier alleging bias in the coverage. It showed the need for a thorough reappraisal of BBC standards, he declared. The final blunder followed within a year when the BBC was forced to withdraw *Project Zircon*, a programme on Britain's secret spy satellite. According to hostile To-

ries, the BBC stood accused not only of lack of political judgment and declining standards but of an absence of editorial control.

The Thatcher government had already struck against the BBC by appointing Professor Alan Peacock to chair an enquiry into its financing. Professor Peacock, now Sir Alan, seized the opportunity to widen his remit and the report turned into a wide-ranging manifesto for injecting market forces into broadcasting.

But the fact that the then home secretary, Leon Brittan, set it up for a more specific purpose in March 1985 is a reminder of how long has been the period of political scrutiny. That scrutiny now enters a new public phase with the publication of the green paper, originally prepared by David Mellor and published yesterday by Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary.

The Zircon affair proved to be the last nail in Mr Milne's coffin. Douglas Hurd, who had succeeded Leon Brittan as home secretary, appointed "Duke" Huxley, a former chief executive of Times Newspapers with a reputation as a tough-minded manager, as BBC chairman. His job was to bring the BBC under control. Within months, Mr Milne was fired and replaced by Michael Checkland.

Meanwhile the looming satellite revolution was posing a more long-term threat to the BBC. The arrival of new satellite channels would fragment audiences both for the BBC and ITV: what justification would there be for a universal licence fee if the BBC's share of the television audience dropped to about 30 per cent?

That question was hardly addressed in the White Paper on Broadcasting in the 1990s published by Mr Hurd in 1988. Instead the pressure from Downing Street became focused on restructuring ITV. But they did not leave the BBC untouched — as one of the more bizarre incidents in the history of broadcasting policy-making vividly illustrates.

In the summer of 1988, shortly after Rupert Murdoch astonished media and politicians alike by

announcing the launch of a clutch of new channels via the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite, the chairman and chief executives of the BBC and IBA were summoned to a meeting with the trade and industry secretary, Lord Young.

He announced to them, and promptly published, his proposal to add BBC2 and Channel 4 to the "official" British satellite, being set up by the BSB consortium. Mr Murdoch's rival. After a brief transition period, their terrestrial broadcasts would cease, thereby giving an incentive to people to buy dishes for the non-Murdoch satellite and simultaneously freeing two more transmitter networks for more commercial competition down below.

The idea was laughed out of court (what politician would deprive the public of half their "free" television?) by the following Tuesday, but was notable for two reasons: the broadcasting leaders, BBC included, felt obliged to treat it at the time with due solemnity; and it illustrated the division between Lord Young and his advisers on the one side and Mr Hurd's Home Office. The latter, supposedly responsible for broadcasting policy, had no pre-knowledge of Lord Young's move and helped to get it ditched.

The good news from Mr Hurd's white paper for the BBC was that it



At the helm of the corporation: from left, Alasdair Milne, John Birt, Marmaduke Hussey, Michael Checkland



Pulling the political strings: from left, Professor Alan Peacock, Lord Young, David Mellor, Douglas Hurd

was described as the cornerstone of public service broadcasting. Advertising on BBC programmes was again ruled out. The really bad news was that it looked forward to the eventual replacement of the licence fee.

Yet even though the heat had now been turned on to ITV, the BBC mandarins could not forget that their turn would come again. That was a reason, if not an excuse, for their failure to join in the wider

debate, which caused lasting resentment among their ITV peers. It was also a reason for their continued failure to raise their own flag, this past year and more, the word from Whitehall was that it would be better to wait until the government had put forward its own views.

Mr Checkland and John Birt, his deputy who succeeds him as director-general in the New Year, have put their period to constructive protest. Mr Checkland first came to profes-

sional prominence in 1979, with a paper on drama costs that indicated a resources manager who wanted to get programmes on the screen. As director-general, this was to be his prime task. Though the ITV companies alone faced the rigours of the coming auction, both giants of the "cosy duopoly" were put under the pressure of what-

though done by Mr Hurd's ministerial diktat without need for legislation, was arguably the single most

important act of broadcasting policy after the founding of Channel 4: the insistence that they move towards taking 25 per cent of their programmes from independent producers.

Whatever the truth about the relationship between Mr Checkland and Mr Birt, whose personal promise of professional autonomy, Mr Huxley made more manifest in the more competitive manner of his being named to the succession, the two have had to cut staff jobs while promising to retain the BBC's core identity.

Their inability, at least until now, to express whatever *vis à vis* either or both of them has "given the Checkland years an image with his own staff, that he did not deserve of a BBC focused more on the bottom line than on the screen.

Tomorrow the BBC publishes its own 90-page reply to the government. Its vision of how the BBC should meet the learning challenges from satellite channels and the new ITV companies which start broadcasting in January. That vision has been in preparation for nearly 18 months. The BBC is not yet off the book. It now needs to start setting its own agenda.

PAUL FOX

© The author is a former managing director of BBC Television

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DISABLED LIVING

Legal moves offer disabled people some hope of fairer treatment, Desmond Dearlove reports

All we demand is our rights

When President Bush signed the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990 and said "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down", the act gave civil rights protection to disabled people in the United States. Yet for many of the 6.5 million disabled people in the UK today, that wall remains as formidable as ever.

The social and political landscape in 1992 suggests that British society is organised solely for the benefit of non-disabled people, who form 90 per cent of the population. What is less clear, however, is how public transport, for example, can truly be called public when it fails to take account of the basic needs of one in ten of those it is supposed to serve.

The position of disabled people in British society has not improved significantly since the second world war," says Richard Wood, the director

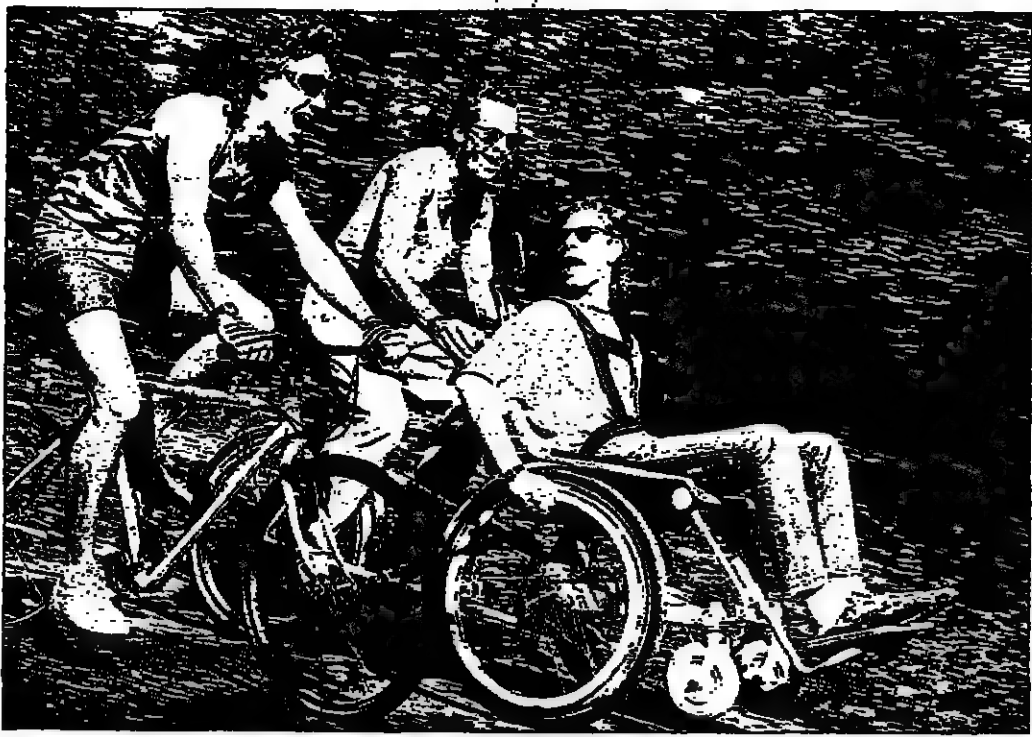
of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP), which acts as an umbrella for the growing number of organisations run by disabled people.

"Disabled people have the highest unemployment at more than 60 per cent. There is still no integrated housing system. We are prevented from using public transport. And more than 70 per cent of us rely on government benefits."

Bert Massie, the director of the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar), says spending cut-backs mean that local authorities are also shirking their legal responsibilities — under the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act — to provide services such as meals-on-wheels and home help to those who need them. "At Radar we now have two people working full-time to remind local authorities of those legal responsibilities," he says. "but it is very worrying that disabled people have to fight for what legal rights they do have."

In employment, too, legislation to protect disabled people is all lip-service and no teeth. The quota scheme introduced by the 1944 Disabled Persons Employment Act is largely impotent. Figures for 1990 show that fewer than 5 per cent of public sector organisations fulfilled their obligations. Yet, since the act's introduction it has been used to bring only ten prosecutions.

All this could change if a bill now in the House of Lords becomes law. However, the chances that the civil rights



Heading into a better future? The disability movement is gathering momentum with the emphasis on integration. The Duet wheelchair tandem has been developed by Neatwork (0890 3456)

(disabled persons) bill introduced by Alf Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe, will be passed when it returns to the House of Commons are drastically reduced as it is a private member's bill and lacks the force of government backing.

Against this background the disability movement in the UK has been gathering momentum. This month the movement received a significant boost from an unlikely quarter. A team of legal experts from the Law Society's em-

ployment law committee effectively demolished a long-standing argument, used by successive governments, that legislation to protect disabled people from discrimination by employers was unworkable.

Using their experience of existing anti-discrimination laws, and considering the recently introduced American legislation in particular, committee members concluded that new laws similar to those banning discrimination by employers on the grounds of

sex and race could be effective in the UK.

However, new laws to prevent discrimination in jobs will not succeed until the basic infrastructure barriers are tackled. After all, a legal right to protection at work is useless if structural discrimination in housing and transport make it impossible to get to work in the first place. "Disabled people need access to the full range of opportunities," Mr Wood says. "The only way to address these issues is through comprehensive and holistic civil rights legislation similar to that in America."

Joe Hennessy, the support services director at the Muscular Dystrophy Group, says: "I think everything hinges on getting the anti-discrimination legislation in place to give disabled people access to amenities enjoyed by everybody else. That is why our group, although primarily a medical research charity, is a member

of the Voluntary Organisations for Anti-Discrimination Legislation and supported the Disability Manifesto Group."

The issue of self-determination for disabled people is high on the agenda. The recent explosion of organisations run by disabled people, many of which now speak with one voice through BCODP — is evidence that the disability movement has come of age.

Charities face mounting pressure to relinquish control to disabled people. "You don't get white people running groups for black people, or men running women's groups," Mr Massie says. "So why should able-bodied people run groups for disabled people?"

So, slowly but surely, the fight against stereotypical images of helplessness is being won and the arguments for excluding disabled people from mainstream society

Crusaders in fine voice

Mary Wilkinson insists that journalism for disabled people boasts a new vitality

Contrary to its "worthy but dull" image, disability journalism is alive and kicking. In the past six months, two crusading quarters, *Rights Not Charity* and *Disability Writes*, have been launched by organisations run by disabled people, and two monthlies re-launched, by Mencap and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

Yet last year's attempt by Maxwell Consumer Publishing to win over some of the six million disabled people in the UK failed after six months. Seduced by the size of the market, commercial publishers forgot that only three in ten disabled people are employed, so even a £10 subscription is excessive. Reaching disabled readers is also difficult: many cannot browse in a newsagent and a ten second national television advert costs £25,000.

The present flurry of activity reflects a change in disability awareness among disabled and non-disabled people. In the 1970s, there were some self-help magazines produced by disabled drivers' associations and one or two good, informative newsletters from disability organisations such as the Spinal Injuries Association. There were also many in-house magazines produced by parent-led charities for their own client group. These gave a rosy view and criticism or controversy were out of place. Disabled clients were seen

as receiving services; they rarely had views.

However, the 1981 International Year of Disabled People helped to focus public attention on disability, showing that it was a social barrier to jobs and leisure. At the same time disabled people were growing more politically aware. Established charities had to listen to their clients. Criticism of services and government policy started appearing in their magazines.

The Spastics Society went the furthest. *Disability Now* grew from an in-house magazine in 1984 to a national monthly newspaper, written by disabled and non-disabled people and reaching people with all kinds of disability. Political and social issues rub shoulders with party clothes, Christmas rec-

ipes, arts reviews and ideas for next year's holiday. But, there are still not enough disabled journalists. Three annual bursaries for trainees offered through the Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar) is only one small step.

Radar bursaries are for training courses in broadcasting, photo or print journalism at an accredited college. Applicants must have a minimum of two A levels and two O levels (one in English). Closing date: February 28, 1993. Denise Ian Gibson, Radar, 25 Mortimer St, London W1N 8AB. Tel: 071 637 5400. Open day, January 26.

● The author is editor, *Disability Now*.



In a fighting mood: Richard Wood

Bill offers a remedy for parents

Discrimination against disabled people is widespread but the law is too blunt an instrument to deal with it, Nicholas Scott, the minister for disabled people, believes. In the important areas of education and employment, persuasion is better than legislation. This is small comfort to the 60 per cent of disabled people who are unemployed or the 50 per cent of disabled children in

special schools still awaiting assessment of their needs.

Mr Scott says: "The American anti-discrimination legislation is a fine declaration but there are no federal funds to implement it. The act relies entirely on the disabled person who feels he is discriminated against going to court, incurring all the expense and getting a declaration." Nor is he in favour of using the law against employers who fail to

meet the 3 per cent quota of registered disabled people on their staff. One reason may be that Mr Scott's own department would be liable before the courts. "Mass prosecutions would be counter-productive," he says.

However, a new legal remedy will be available to the parents of disabled children under the education bill now going through Parliament. The 1988 Education Act pro-

vided that disabled children should be integrated in mainstream schools but more than half still go to special schools. "Some local authorities have made decisions about where children go to school with little discussion with parents or little opportunity for them to object. The new act will provide extended rights of appeal," Mr Scott says.

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BT - serving people with disabilities

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New services

Two major new advances have been made in the telephone service over the past year.

The first nationwide telephone exchange for deaf people, Typetalk, is now in operation.

Typetalk uses text communication and voice translation to give deaf and speech-impaired people full access for the first time to the national telephone network.

It has been developed by BT and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People who manage the exchange with BT.

Calls are charged at normal rates, and there are volume rebates to help cover the extra time spent in communication.

And for blind people and those with poor sight, braille and large print bills are now available at no extra cost in a service developed by BT and the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Community Programme help

The BT Community Programme's support includes the sponsorship of two major series of events each year for people with disabilities.

BT funds the national and regional swimming galas, swimming training and water safety programmes of the British Sports Association for the Disabled.

We also offer the nation's disabled youngsters the chance to compete in the BT Kielder Challenge, a nationwide contest of outdoor pursuits involving mixed teams of able-bodied and disabled youngsters.

Through our special unit, Action for Disabled Customers, we publish an annual guide on the latest products and services, which can be ordered by ringing 150.

For Typetalk details, call 0800 134 134. For details of BT's Community Programme, call 071 336 6678.

BT
Community Programme

Companies need to overcome their prejudices and give all applicants an equal chance. Desmond Dearlove reports

Employers fail the jobs test

The BBC's decision to employ an all-disabled production staff at its newly created Disability Programmes Unit (DPU) was based on a conviction that disabled people can best be made by disabled people. By proving the BBC right, the unit can send a clear signal to employers everywhere that the time has come to give disabled workers a chance to show what they can do.

The unit's editor, Kerena Marchant, who is deaf, and her colleagues whose impairments include cerebral palsy, epilepsy and manic depression are already bringing their own blend of initiative and pragmatism to TV production. "We've adapted domestic camcorder equipment and experimented with special effects technology to make editing faster and more cost-effective," Ms Marchant explains. "It allows us to edit on the same tape we film on which greatly speeds up the process."

Yet the reality for a great many disabled people is that they do not know what kinds of innovations they could bring to the workplace because discriminatory recruitment practices among employers mean they are not given the chance to find out.

A report published earlier this year by the Employment Policy Unit, for example, found that disabled people are six times less likely to be called for job interviews than non-disabled applicants with identical qualifications and work experience. The report went on to say: "One of the most significant factors undermining the rights of disabled adults to participate fully and equally in society is their systematic exclusion and

marginalisation from the labour market."

Many commentators now believe that stronger legal protection is required for the rights of disabled people in the job market. Their only protection at present comes from a law dating back to 1944 which in theory is supposed to guarantee that companies meet quotas of disabled employees, but in practice is widely flouted by both private and public sector organisations.

Among the reasons employers most frequently put forward for not hiring people with disabilities is the argument that disabled people are likely to need more days off. They are also seen as a safety risk — adding to insurance costs — and unable to work as efficiently as non-disabled workers.

But a series of surveys conducted by the American chemical company Du Pont since 1958 shows conclusively that the company's disabled employees are safe, dependable and productive workers. The most recent survey, in 1990, found that in safety terms, 97 per cent were rated average or above, in attendance less than 14 per cent were rated below average, and in performance, 90 per cent were rated average or above.

Other studies have recorded a comparatively low labour turnover among disabled employees. Yet despite such evidence, many employers continue to treat disabled people as though they have less to offer than non-disabled employees.

An advertising campaign launched this month by the employment department aims to encourage employers to treat disabled job applicants

fairly. Dean Fell, a press officer with the department says: "It is designed to bring to the attention of employers that disabled people are actually very good in jobs and to let them know that government grants are available to help them to adapt their premises."

There is evidence, too, that some companies are already taking a more enlightened view of recruiting disabled people. At London Electricity, for example, qualified disabled candidates are automatically short-listed for interview. The company also offers assistance in the form of sign language interpreters if required and holds regular meetings between disabled employees and personnel staff with the aim of involving both in the development of company policy and procedures.

So what should you do if you feel you are discriminated against when you apply for jobs? Among the steps suggested by the experts are:

● Choose the organisations you apply to carefully — by looking at a company's track record as an employer you can get a good idea of its attitude to disabled people.

● Discuss your access needs prior to interview — an informal chat with the interviewer

will allow you to gauge their attitude and put them at ease with you.

● Meet employers face to face — some employers now target disabled graduates on the university milk-round and at job fairs. One-to-one meetings are an excellent opportunity to educate non-disabled people and make contacts which can lead to jobs later.

● Network with other disabled people — networking can be an invaluable source of information as well as an excellent way to let off steam.

● Find out more about jobs that have been held by people with the same impairment as yourself — a precedent makes discrimination less likely, and a stronger case at interviews.

● The author is business issues editor, The ITEM Group.



Gary Flather QC: looking at the needs of barristers and their clients

The person counts, not the wheelchair

Would you employ this person? asks the wording on a brochure below the head-and-shoulders photograph of a man. His name: Stephen Duckworth. Age: 32. Education: graduate. The brochure opens to a full-length portrait of the same man, in a wheelchair, and asks: "Would you still employ this person?"

The leaflet comes from Disability Matters Ltd, a training consultancy set up by Mr Duckworth to help employers to "dispel the myths and misconceptions surrounding the employment of disabled people". After a rugby accident when he was a medical student — hence the wheelchair — Mr Duckworth qualified, then took an MSc in rehabilitation studies before setting up the company in 1989. An employment agency followed it about 18 months later.

Working from Salisbury, Wiltshire, his trainers have helped employers, such as the Automobile Association, Shell UK and Woolworths, in areas ranging from developing employment policy to improving corporate images by including disabled people in marketing strategies.

A similar venture, Equal Ability, was started last month

in West Yorkshire by two women who are both wheelchair users: Sue Maynard, a solicitor, and her sister Alice, an MBA graduate. Sue Maynard is also secretary to the Association of Disabled Professionals, which for almost 20 years has worked to improve education and training prospects for all disabled people, particularly the professions. As a lobby group, it responds to government papers and has been instrumental in changing legislation.

"We actually exist to help other people — to show them we've done it and therefore they can do it," she says. "If I had a call from an architect who had developed multiple sclerosis and wondered how he was going to manage, I would try to put him in touch with a member who had similar problems."

Few professional bodies have addressed disability within their membership — the legal profession is an exception. The Law Society's Group for Disabled Solicitors has been going for almost three years and in October 1991 barristers started the disability panel of the Bar Council. The panel's high standing is reflected in its committee members, who include Niall

Morison, deputy chief executive of the council, and Anthony Scrivener QC, a past chairman of the Bar.

The group's chairman is Gary Flather QC, who says: "It was felt there was a gap to fill in relation to the needs of both barristers and clients." Bearing in mind the citizen's charter and access rights of all members of the public to courts, the panel has conducted a survey of the access to and facilities of barristers' chambers in London; those results are being analysed.

Employers have not been without initiative. Susan Scott-Parker, director of the Employers' Forum on Disability, says it is the only national forum to address the training, education and employment of disabled people.

Funded by membership fees (£500 to join, then £1,000 a year), it has about 75 corporate members, with a management board of core funders — including British Rail, Rank Xerox, Barclays Bank, B & Q — who pay a minimum of £6,000 a year. "We're trying to make it easier for employers to recruit, retain and develop disabled employees," she says.

PAT BLAIR

Cash in hand is the key to full integration, says Jenny Morris

A battle for independence

Disabled people are increasingly asserting human and civil rights: our rights to work, to have relationships, to be parents, to live in our own home, to fully participate in society. For those who need help with the tasks of daily living the barriers to equal citizenship are high.

Jack and Moira, who both need 24-hour help, met and fell in love while living in residential care ten years ago. Having been told that they could not marry, let alone have a much wanted child, the couple now live in their own home with their seven-year-old daughter. They employ personal assistants to enable them to live the kind of life that non-disabled people take for granted.

Growing numbers of disabled people are asserting their rights to live independently, to do the kind of things which non-disabled people take for granted. Over the past ten years there have been exciting developments that increase the chances of independent living.

For a start, there are seven Centres for Independent Living, established by disabled people to campaign for their rights and to give support to individuals trying

to get the housing and practical help they require. The latest CIL to be set up is in the Lothian area of Scotland. It campaigns against the segregation of disabled people in institutions and provides advice about achieving independent living.

Getting the right kind of practical help is crucial. Jack and Moira are able to live the kind of life they do because they receive money from both their social services department and from the Independent Living Fund (a government funded trust) to employ personal assistants. This means they have control over the kind of help they need. However, the government says that it is illegal for local authorities to give money directly to individuals and the future of the ILF is also in jeopardy because of government community care plans.

But disabled people and their organisations know that receiving the money to pay for assistance gives real independence. Pressure has been put on the government to make direct payments legal, the latest support coming from the Association of Directors of Social Services, which last month agreed that this

should happen. Projects such as the personal assistance adviser employed by Greenwich Association of Disabled People have shown the cost effectiveness of giving people the cash to pay for practical help. A private member's bill which would legalise direct payments is due for a second reading on December 8.

The government's community care reforms, to be fully implemented next April, are supposed to make it possible for disabled people to live in their own homes and to participate in community life. But will this happen? Unless disabled people have control over the help they need, residential care will only be replaced by institutionalisation within the four walls of an individual's own home. The notion that physical impairment inevitably means dependency is being challenged. Rather, it is a lack of suitable housing and control over practical help which prevents independence.

● Details: SCODP's Independent Living Committee, c/o Philip Mason (0420 474261).

● The author is a freelance writer/researcher whose work Community Care or Independent Living? will be published in February 1993 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Everyday life can be a struggle

Two people talk to Pat Blair about how disability has affected their lives

Until she was in her early twenties, Jane O'Brien lived like any other young person from a good family. Brought up mainly in New Zealand, she was at university and all was fine, until she realised she was reading very slowly and getting behind on set books. That, she says, "was unusual for me because I was an avid reader". An eye specialist diagnosed cataracts.

In hospital the full diagnosis became clear: muscular dystrophy, a degenerative and progressively crippling disease of the muscles. Miss O'Brien still attended lectures but was so far behind that academic achievement was out of her grasp. Her hopes of working in publishing faded.

Aged 23, she returned to Britain where the cataracts were removed. "It was only after I had my eyes done that I realised how bad my sight was," she says. "You gradually adapt and develop a different set of references. For example when I walked, I'd feel the edge of the pavement with my foot before stepping down."

Sharing flats with friends, Miss O'Brien wedded when she could but as her physical capability waned, so did her confidence. Rush-hour travel "is not on if you are at all impaired", she says. She called off her engagement when she realised her fiancé could not handle the future prospects. There were periods when the disease seemed stable, then there would be a steep decline.

"Socially, my life didn't change very much, until I was unable to walk," she says. "Things you once took for granted, you are no longer able to do. Life itself is one long weary task even getting dressed is an effort." She became unable to walk about 18 months ago. Now aged 47 and in a place of her own, she is learning the realities of life with a wheelchair.

She is invited to dinner less often: friends' flats are inaccessible. Lack of access and facilities exclude her from many galleries, theatres and from public transport. Her local Sainsbury's is an exception.



Now unable to walk, Jane O'Brien finds life a long weary task

"Most people interviewed for articles are high achievers who've done wonderful things despite being disabled, thus reinforcing the attitude that you're only acceptable if you're exceptional," she says. "I'm an ordinary person who was unable to realise my potential because of my physical condition — which is actually far more representative of disabled people than the high achievers, just as high achievers among the able-bodied are the rare ones."

Friends do call round for a chat — and Miss O'Brien finds herself to be a good listener when others have problems. "In the past I have not opened my mind sufficiently to things I probably can do," she says. She talks of taking a two-year course to become a counsellor, to put her experiences to practical use.

Peter McDonald is probably one of life's high-achievers, with or without a disability. He was six when he was brought to Britain from Jamaica by his grandmother after his mother died. He had never been to school and could not walk: he had cerebral palsy, a

condition characterised by lack of muscle co-ordination. Essentially, he explains: "It messes up your nervous system so that signals sent out by the brain aren't necessarily obeyed by the body."

Schools left him unimpressed with a system that segregated able-bodied and disabled children. "I wanted things out of life that segregated education was unable to provide. It was useful for practical skills but academic expectations were not high."

After taking A levels at further education college, he attended the Polytechnic of East London. At both places, he says, "there was a lot of good will, without which I would not have been able to survive".

Facilities were not geared to disability. Mr McDonald uses crutches but says that had he been in a wheelchair, he would not have managed. "It was tough, but it taught me a lot about myself, about what I thought I could achieve. It was a great confidence booster, coping on the same level academically as able-bodied people, with all the physical demands on top."

Amid rising unemployment, Mr McDonald came on to the job market with a degree in sociology, a black skin and a disability — not the best combination for job hunting. Targeting potential employers for research work, he landed a job with the Spastics Society.

Now aged 27, he is aware of society's reactions to disability. If he has a "normal bad day" at the office, or is off work ill, others may wrongly blame his disability. He has had close personal relationships, but if he is rejected by a girlfriend, was it him or his disability? He looks forward to marriage and children, once he is more financially secure.

"Most of us don't want to be role models, but we end up that way," he says. "People say 'well, he did it.' Yet what he does want is to be a normal member of society and to be able to pay his way, with maybe a tax incentive or two to offset the considerable costs of living in a world geared to the able-bodied."



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Model (eg. Escort)

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K J H G F E D C B Other

When do you expect to purchase your next car?

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مكتبة الأصل

A LOOK AT HOW TWO OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

Adapting to the needs of individual customers

ANYONE who has answered a ring at the door only to find that the meter reader has gone might appreciate one of the many services offered under a new British Gas registration scheme. Customers with restricted mobility who are on the GasCare register can give permission for the meter reader to be alerted so that he or she will give them time to reach the door.

The computer-based confidential register is open to anyone with a disability or aged 60 and over, living alone or with someone else who qualifies. As British Gas explains: "We are using modern technology to help us provide a special personalised service for customers who need individual attention. We doubt

whether any other company has anything so comprehensive." Half a million people have already registered.

Other services for people with special needs include free gas safety checks, although repairs must be paid for; a password scheme to identify meter readers; a "talking bill" service for the visually impaired; appliance controls and adaptors where controls can be fitted they are free. Details from home service advisers, contactable through showrooms or district offices (see "Gas" in phone books).

British Gas also promises: "If the gas supply to older, disabled or vulnerable people is interrupted, they will not be left without heating or cooking facilities."

BT's innovations lead the way

RATHER appropriately, Speke in Liverpool is home to Typetalk, a telephone relay service for deaf people developed jointly by British Telecom and the RNID and designed to give deaf, deaf-blind and speech-impaired people access to the sort of public telephone network available to hearing people (see *Par Blair writes*). All the deaf customer needs is to be registered with the service and to have a computer terminal compatible with the Typetalk system (details on 051-494 1000).

To gain access to the system, which operates 24 hours a day, callers dial a special number and are connected to a trained Typetalk operator. Text users type their message on their computer screen, it appears on the personal screen of the operator, who then speaks it to the hearing person. When the hearing person replies,

the operator types the information back to the text user. Calls can be initiated by hearing or deaf people, to hearing or deaf people, nationally or internationally, and partial rebates on phone bills are available. "We are a world leader in this service," says Richard Redden, BT's community liaison manager.

Typetalk is only one of BT's services for disabled people. The company has spent years developing and improving services and products which are detailed in *The BT Guide for people who are disabled or elderly* - 1992 (free, contact local BT sales offices, or dial 100 and ask for Freephone Telecom Sales).

Cannot see the telephone bill? Get it in Braille or large print at no extra charge (Freephone 0800 400 454 for application form). Cannot use the phone book? There is

a free directory enquiry service for those unable to hold, handle or read a printed phone book because of disability (dial 195 for details of how to register). Cannot hear the phone ring? One can opt for a variety of flashing light signals.

BT employs 1,489 registered disabled people, in a workforce of 180,000, but much of its disability work for consumers is co-ordinated through the Actions for Disabled Customers (ADC) unit. In each of BT's regional zones is a disability liaison officer, a full-time manager whose job it is to oversee the services provided for disabled customers and provide feedback to ADC. At headquarters level, explains Colin Passfield, ADC operations adviser, a committee of senior BT managers and representatives from groups such as Age Concern plan new services.

Holidays without hassle

The art of going on holiday is something anybody can spend a long time perfecting. How do you achieve that blissful state of relaxation combined with enough enjoyable, but not too taxing activity to stave off boredom - tricky, particularly when the disability-related logistics of it all can send your stress level through the roof. (Sian Vasey writes).

A good point of departure for disabled people thinking about taking a break is the Holiday Care Service (0293 784647). It has information on everything from accessible accommodation to ways of coping with the lavatory on a plane.

If you like to meet people, a Murder Weekend might be just the ticket. These weekends have varying formats. One company that specialises in fun and virtually guarantees you will be chatting away within minutes of the action starting is Padwick and Ball.

Rita Sandford, a wheelchair user, has been on three of these weekends - every weekend has a different plot. She says: "They're a fantastic way of meeting people. You could go on your own. You have to ask questions, the ball just has to get rolling." This type of weekend is particularly accessible for blind people because they do not rely on masses of visual clues. Everybody is under suspicion.

The weekends take place at a variety of hotels. Those in Grasmere, Derwentwater, Guildford, York and Solihull have wheelchair access. Along with the whodunnit element you are also treated to a talk on an aspect of criminology - Dr Crippen was one topic last year - and a variety show, so it is good value at under £100 for two nights including meals. Further information: 081-367 6793.

The previously inaccessible Donmar Warehouse theatre in Covent Garden, central London, now has a lift, an accessible lavatory and a wheelchair space in the stalls and circle, cost £12.

Parking at the NCP car park in Drury Lane is £4.50 a night with a 25 per cent discount available for members of The Friends of the Donmar (membership £15). This is worth exploring in the notoriously inaccessible West End, particularly as the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Assassins*, is being premiered.

The refurbished Whiteleys shopping centre at Queensway, Bayswater, west London, is good for wheelchair users. It has eight accessible cinema screens known as UC1 Whiteleys on the second floor. All have wheelchair spaces. Disabled people are not required to be accompanied.

David Griffiths reports that the motor industry has woken up to the needs of an important sector of the market

Time to get the show on the road

Ten years ago anyone with a disability contemplating a visit to the Motor Show faced a battery of obstacles, not the least being that of getting to the venue and then into the show itself. Once inside there was little opportunity for a wheelchair user to do other than shuffle around the perimeter and dream.

Even if one managed to actually gain access to a stand, finding someone willing to consider you anything other than a non-viable enquirer was virtually unknown. In short, the motor industry saw little in the potential of wooing disability as a customer.

Contrast that with today. This year, disabled visitors to the Motor Show were accorded due status as a valuable proportion of the marketplace (some 19 per cent of August 1

registrations this year were reputed to be in the name of disabled users). Virtually all exhibitors provided wheelchair access to their stands and some, such as Ford, Renault and Vauxhall, featured adapted vehicles for both passenger and driver.

Much of this is due to the Motability Schemes which help disabled people to obtain suitable vehicles and which have given hitherto undreamed-of urgency to the theme of mobility for people with disabilities. Although restricted to those in receipt of mobility allowance or the new mobility component of the disabled living allowance, these schemes have heightened the awareness of

suppliers and users. Discounts for new car buyers abound. Volvo was one of the first to enter the field, in the early 1970s, after it absorbed the ageing DAF set-up and unwittingly acquired a sizeable following of disabled drivers who had out their "wheels" at the helm of these cheap automatic easy-to-drive machines.

Ford is seen as a major force in the market

automatic car for the independent motorist with a disability when it launched the Disabled Drivers Escort in the mid-70s. Other firms such as Vauxhall and Renault followed, with concessions and basic automatic vehicles, and from then

on things have never really looked back. Today, Ford is acknowledged as the major force in the market and its commitment to disability is high with support for Driver Assessment Centres, a continuing range of "disabled driver" models and strong links with the adaptation specialists.

At this year's Motor Show, Ford featured a new joystick-control system developed by Jean-Pierre Kempf of France. Fitted to the latest Escort and linked to a Catalyst system it provides total control of the vehicle through the movement of one hand and a sequence of voice commands. Special Vehicle Options, based in Marlborough, Wiltshire, provide fitting and service in the UK.

Progress has brought new opportunities for those with more severe disabilities but at considerable cost and risk. Some financial assistance is



Touch control: trying out the new joystick-control system fitted to a Ford Escort

theoretically available through the Mobility Equipment Fund currently administered on behalf of the government by a team within the Motability conglomerate but access is difficult, time-consuming and frustrating.

Any risk for the motorist with a disability can be partly

offset by good driver assessment at a recognised Driver Assessment Centre which can also help with funding applications in some instances.

For those interested in learning more about disabled driver adaptations, the Motability Information Service has a booklet *Adaptations for the*

Disabled Driver costing £1.25 and available from: Motability Information Centre, 2a Alchem Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG (0743 761889). A list of assessment centres and vehicle discounts is available on request (enclose SAE).

●The author is chief officer, Motability Information Service.

Token gestures on transport are no longer enough

There is at last growing embarrassment about the lack of access for wheelchair users and other mobility impaired people on buses and Tubes in the cities, particularly in light of the achievements in America, Canada and Scandinavia.

The Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT), has done much to highlight the paucity of provision and put the transport authorities to shame with its traffic-stopping demonstrations in central London. Are these efforts leading to any progress?

Ian Seabrook, from London Transport's disabled passen-

ger unit (DPU), is keen to put a brave face on the situation and makes much of the recent development in all mainstream buses (except Routemasters) that handrails are now textured and colour contrasted and step edges highlighted. Useful for partially sighted people no doubt, but not really an innovation that is going to get the disabled workforce into the office.

However, the good news from the DPU is that from next April it will no longer be illegal for people in wheelchairs to use the Tube system. Some may call this progress. Recently Mansion House sta-

Bus and Tube services are inadequate, insists Sian Vasey

tion was refurbished without any access arrangements whatsoever for disabled travellers, and at the Angel, the lifts have been taken out.

It is not all gloom though. Hammersmith Broadway will be a good example of accessibility when work there is complete, most of the Docklands Light Railway was built to take wheelchairs (not Poplar or Bank stations) and a number of stations on the district line have lifts. This means, as Mr Seabrook observes, a wheelchair user could get right

from one end of the line to the other if they wanted. If this is your idea of a day out, remember that London Underground is still only thinking about introducing access ramps onto trains.

Meanwhile on the buses there is at present no access at all for wheelchair users on regular routes. Although next year we are going to see a breakthrough as 68 low floor buses will be introduced on three routes in London.

Apart from Dial-A-Ride, which trundles within bor-

ough boundaries and has to be booked two days in advance - if you can get through on the single telephone line - there are two services trying to combine access with spontaneity.

One is Stationlink, previously known as Carelink but renamed to reduce the patronising tone, an accessible bus which makes a clockwise circuit of the London stations. There is one hourly from each station. A trip from Euston to Liverpool St takes about 25 minutes. But the journey from, say, Paddington to Victoria,

around the whole circuit, lasts an hour and a half.

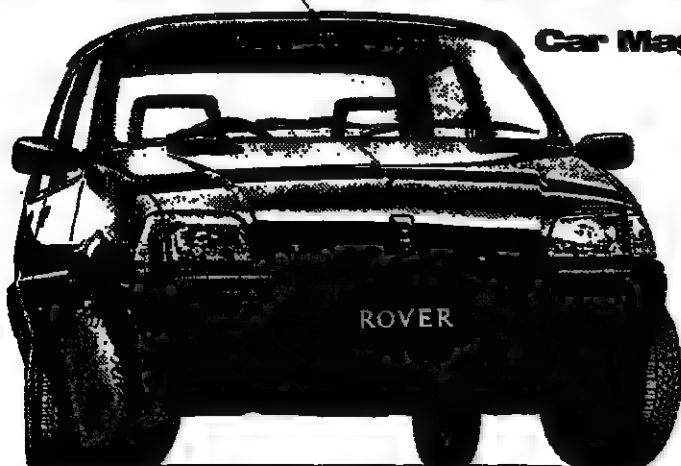
The second is the Mobility Bus which operates in eight areas within London with a total of 80 routes and one or two services a week per route. For example it is possible to go from Swiss Cottage Library to Brent Cross shopping centre, with seven stops in between, every Tuesday at 10.35 or at 14.00 returning at 13.05 or 16.40.

The busiest of the Mobility Bus routes carry only 50 wheelchair passengers over

any four-week period. I suppose someone somewhere may find them invaluable and the more people who know about them the better, but both the Mobility Buses and Stationlink are really nothing more than token gestures in a transport system that is still badly failing disabled people.

●Detail: The Unit for Disabled Passengers, London Transport, 55 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BD. Tel: 071 918 3312 (voice and minicom). The unit will also supply a large print journey planner and bus map.

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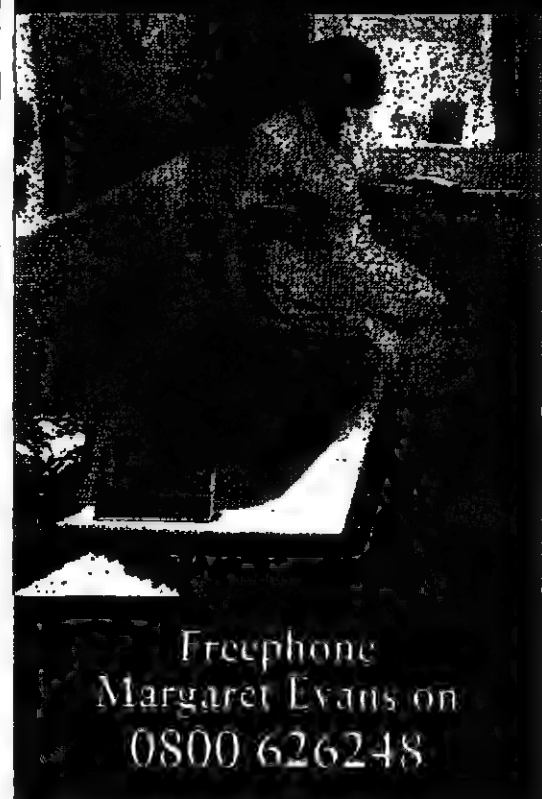
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THEATRE page 38

After eight years,
Starlight Express has
been given some new
Lloyd Webber songs

ARTS

MUSEUMS page 39

With a little help from a
film-maker, Scotland is
putting on a show of
native wit and craft



Is our heritage safe as houses?



Van Dyck's *Philip, 4th Earl of Pembroke and his Family*: to move it from Wilton House would detract from the unique meaning which the ideal setting bestows

By a miracle the fire which swept so suddenly and brutally through Windsor Castle seems to have destroyed only one substantial painting: a large equestrian portrait of George III by the mediocre Sir William Beechey. But the embers have now been extinguished, the charred ruins leave plenty of nagging questions in their wake. They centre, first of all, on the safety of the pictures now remaining at Windsor. Since one fire laid waste to St George's Hall with such devastating speed, what is to prevent another inferno from consuming the cream of the Renaissance paintings and drawings still preserved at the castle?

Conservationists may claim that, as at Hampton Court after the recent calamity, fire precautions will now be hugely improved at Windsor. But, nobody can really argue that an ancient castle is even half as safe as a public gallery custom-built for the care of great paintings.

So should the art collection stay in the castle at all? If many of the rooms near the fire had not recently been emptied, in preparation for renovation work, the destruction of important paintings would have been calamitous. Masterpieces by Rubens, Van Dyck and Rembrandt might now be blackened beyond repair. As for the Holbein portrait drawings, which provide such a vivid insight into Tudor court life,

Following the Windsor fire, Richard Cork asks whether great works of art would be better housed in the safety of museums

their fragile paper would have curled up and disintegrated within seconds. It is a horrible prospect.

And what about all the other stately homes throughout Britain where irreplaceable collections are housed? Now that Windsor has succumbed, is it not time to acknowledge the danger and find new, safer homes for all the most outstanding works in these risky premises?

After all, the Duke of Sutherland has for decades lent his outstanding paintings to the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh, where they have been enjoyed by far more visitors than the Duke could admit to his own home. Indeed, if he ever decided to withdraw his Titians, Raphaels and Poussins from their allotted walls at The Mound, the National Gallery of Scotland would suffer a traumatic loss.

Other public collections benefit from similar arrangements. At the moment, the National Gallery in London has received, on loan from the Duke of Buccleuch, the recently upgraded Leonardo painting of *The Madonna of the Yarnwinder*. This intimate little image forms an ideal complement to the far larger altarpiece of *The Virgin of the Rocks* in the National Gallery's own collection. Our knowledge of

Leonardo's range and achievement is rounded out by such a loan, and galleries throughout the nation would be equally refreshed by the ability to borrow masterpieces from nearby houses.

Besides, the lighting in many of these mansions leaves much to be desired. Sometimes their greatest paintings are displayed in such dim conditions that they can hardly be seen, let alone relished. Sometimes, too, their true quality is obscured by heavily discoloured varnish or severe cracking. Many need sympathetic attention from restorers. Removal to a public collection might lead to a dramatic enhancement of their condition.

At this point, though, a note of caution should be sounded. Some private collections are little more than the sum of miscellaneous purchases by several generations. The British aristocracy's love affair with the Grand Tour means that many of these acquisitions are Italian, originally intended for churches or palazzi far removed from the home they now inhabit.

Others, however, were commissioned directly by the ancestors of their present owners, often for spaces they still occupy. Take Van

Dyck's celebrated group portrait of the Earl of Pembroke and his family, still preserved (and recently cleaned) at Wilton House in Wiltshire. Although not initially intended for its present location, this immense painting looks splendidly at home there, filling an entire end wall of the Double Cube Room. To move it from this ideal site, surrounded by other Van Dycks and portraits of the period, would detract from the unique meaning which Wilton bestows on it.

Every effort should likewise be made to keep Turner's paintings at Petworth House in Sussex. The 3rd Earl of Egremont was one of Turner's most hospitable patrons, encouraging him to execute views of the house and grounds at his leisure. These supremely lyrical canvases are among Turner's most ravishing works. And they hang in the same resonant location today, near windows offering views of the very places which Turner painted. No museum could ever be an adequate substitute for such an ideal marriage between an artwork and the locale that inspired it. Any safety initiative aimed at the wholesale transfer of key paintings from private houses, regardless of their associations, should be resisted. Exploring Renaissance lit-

erary proves how revelatory a great work still *in situ* can be, harmonising with the particular character of its surroundings rather than dumped in an anonymous gallery. Paintings in museums can easily look stranded and forlorn, deprived of the unique context that brought them into being. So preservationist moves to disrupt this sense of unity ought to be opposed.

After all, altarpieces have survived in the most out-of-the-way Tuscan churches for centuries, and not even the most security-conscious museum can prevent a vandal from attacking a picture. A sensitive and sensible balance must be struck, weighing the priority of protection against the virtues of keeping site-specific art undisturbed whenever possible. But following Windsor's conflagration, everything seems far more vulnerable. If it has shocked us into taking more care of priceless objects whose safety has been taken for granted, good may yet come out of it.

On second thoughts, I'm absolutely furious

JOHN OSBORNE is selling the handwritten manuscript of the play that made him famous, *Look Back in Anger*. It will be in Sotheby's auction on December 14, and is expected to fetch between £30,000 and £40,000. He wrote the play (premiered in 1956) rapidly, between May 4 and June 3, 1955. But he hesitated a good deal over the title, if the evidence of the manuscript is to be believed.

His first thought appears to have been *Bargain from Strength*: an unpromising title, as Osborne clearly recognised. The manuscript title-page also offers *Close the Cage Behind You* and *My Blood is a Mile High* — not bad but not very witty — and, getting closer to the final choice, *Man in a Rage*, *Angry Man* and *Farwell to Anger*. All these are crossed out, and *Look Back in Anger* stands there alone, a testimony to Osborne's brilliant instinct.

AS MUSICAL collaborations go, the tour just announced by the rock singer/songwriter Elvis Costello and the Brodsky String Quartet seems one of the more unlikely. But Costello, as he told *The Times* recently, is a classical music fan and frequently to be found in the audience at the Wigmore Hall, while the Brodsky Quartet have emulated those chic New Yorkers, the Kronos Quartet, and made visual style an important part of their act.

Costello and the Brodskys will be performing one of Costello's own works, a song sequence for voice and string quartet called *The Juliet Letters*. The tour begins with concerts at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow (February 22) and Drury Lane Theatre in London (February 28).

Goodbye girl

AFTER running for eight years at the Adelphi Theatre, *Me and My Girl* will close at the end of the

ARTS BRIEFING

Christmas season, on January 16. The Noel Gay show has clocked up more West End performances than any other musical, some 5,538, though this figure does include its original run in 1937 and its two productions in the Fifties as well as the 3,305 performances since 1985. A new British tour of the musical begins in Edinburgh next month.

THE assassinations in Sicily this summer of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, the two judges investigating the Mafia, together with 13 of their bodyguards, will be commemorated by an unusual exhibition in London next month. It is of paintings done after these horrific events by young Palermo schoolchildren. Teachers decided that painting — sometimes on very large canvases — was a way to release the children's emotions.

RAI, the Italian broadcasting organisation, is exhibiting some of the paintings in a major Italian city; others have been selected by the Gagliardi Gallery in Chelsea for a week-long London exhibition, "Children Versus Mafia", from December 3.

Last chance...

COMPARED with Picasso and Braque, Juan Gris sometimes looks like the forgotten man of Cubism. One reason may be that while Picasso and Braque lived to be grand old men, Gris died at the age of 40, in 1927. His work is as approachable as that of his confrères; indeed, the show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (071-377 0107, until Sunday) suggests that, at this period, it is more so.



Visual as well as musical stylists: The Brodsky String Quartet, pictured here with Elvis Costello (see second story, above)

Unveiling a pop trivia treasury

Colin Larkin was not born in Dagenham. He was born in Dagenham, Motor City, Essex, home of Brian Poole and the Tremeloes. Sandie Shaw, David Essex and my mate Bill 'Legend' Field of T-Rex.

The editor of the newly published *Guinness Encyclopaedia of Popular Music* is obsessed by the history of popular music. He even uses the words "transposer" and "anorak" as terms of endearment when describing the respected contributors to his work of almost frightening completeness. Weighing in at just under 9 kilograms, its four tomes include four million words, divided into 10,000 entries on artists who Larkin reckons have made "a significant contribution to popular music".

There are lengthy essays on all the usual suspects, from Louis Armstrong to Frank Zappa, but Guinness aims to become "the rock equivalent of *Grove's Dictionary of Music*". You need to know who played trombone in New York's unusual but enchanting sextet "The Nova"? Can't sleep until you find out what happened to "that atabyst among Merseybeat musicians" Ambrose Mogg? Fret no more. It's here.

"We've tried to be as comprehensive as possible but we had 4,000 so many entries," says Larkin, "early dismayed." So we used the smallest type size practicable for a reference book. The dismay is immediately banished as he continues. "They'll be in the next set, though. It'll be eight volumes." The encyclopaedia has haunted

Johnny Black meets the man who has compiled popular music's first serious 'reference' source



Pop Larkin II? The editor with his *Guinness Encyclopaedia*

Larkin for 15 years, but only got off the ground four years ago. "I was publishing expensive books about oriental rugs and Islamic architecture. They sold well and we had contracts from King Hussein and Saudi princes, but I hated it. I would go home and play music all night."

Throughout the Sixties and Seventies, he kept every issue of *New Musical Express* and *Record Mirror*. He played in Closer Than Most, a band too obscure even for his encyclopaedia. He had also been dipping his toes in the pool of rock journalism since 1967. "Turning 40 did it. I had to do this encyclopaedia or end up a bitter old man, muttering about what I should have done."

Falling out with his partner, he quit the Islamic business, took his

share, re-mortgaged his house and set up a rock publishing venture, Square One. "I had £120,000, but needed three times that."

The problem was solved by an old colleague, Mark Cohen, now managing director at Guinness. Cohen had heard of the project and was not put off by its enormous production costs. "The timing was perfect," explains Cohen. "We wanted to move into more serious reference books."

Larkin started assembling a team. His initial list of 14 specialist contributors soared rapidly. "It was my baby but I ended up with 81 people helping change the nappies. We had contributors in Europe, America, Australia... we even found Toru Mitsu in Hong Kong, whose

knowledge of Fifties and Sixties oriental pop is unbeatable."

Soul music specialist Brian Hogg is typical of the breed. Like Larkin, he has played in a Byrds-influenced band, Ebb Tide. He later edited his own fanzine, *Bambalan*, for five years, and is now possibly Britain's most prolific sleeve-note writer. The walls of his flat in Dunbar, Scotland, are insulated largely by vinyl.

Of nearly 2,000 entries, Hogg most regrets having agreed to do Scottish singer Kenneth McKellar. "I switched on my TV during *This Is Your Life* and heard Michael Aspel say 'By 1968, Kenneth, you had recorded over 50 albums.' I had to track down every one."

Larkin, however, had a luckier break with Procol Harum. "I was writing the entry for their drummer, Bobby Harrison," he recalls. "I had typed in his date of birth, but didn't know where he was born. At that moment, a colleague shouted out that Bobby Harrison was standing in the street outside. I dragged him in, so I know we've got the facts right on him."

At £225, the encyclopaedia is hardly an impulse buy. But with the first print-run of 4,000 virtually sold out within days of publication, Larkin is confident of going to a second edition. "There are lots of thirty-something transposers rock fans out there who regularly go into the HMV shop and buy £100-worth of CDs on their credit cards," he says, and grins, adding: "People like me."

THE *Guinness Encyclopaedia of Popular Music* is published by Guinness Books (£195 until January 1)

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مكتبة الأصيل

Cuts that may mean curtains



Early casualty: The Royal Ballet's revival of *The Prince of the Pagodas* was cancelled even before the government's latest proposals on arts funding were announced

Government announcements about spending on the arts are usually greeted in the arts world with a mixture of disappointment and gloomy soothing. Comparing themselves to better-funded organisations in the rest of Europe, British companies often find themselves wanting. But this time round, they have something more to fear: the prospect of actual cuts.

In fact, the arts have enjoyed comparatively healthy funding in recent years. Since 1990-91, the Arts Council's grant has risen from £175.8 million to £221.2 million in this financial year. In 1993-94 the figure will jump to £225.6 million, an increase of £4.4 million: a seemingly substantial rise, though at two per cent it is still below the rate of inflation. But what has alarmed those at the receiving end is that by 1994-95, the government proposes to cut the grant back to £220.9 million, less than it is now.

Nicholas Snowman, chief executive of the South Bank Centre, says that if the government's current inflation forecasts are taken into account, "over the three years it means that there is apparently a cut of around ten per cent in real terms."

Proposed cutbacks come at a bad time for arts bodies. They are already trying to grapple with reduced local authority spending on the arts, declining box office and fewer opportunities for business sponsorship. Many are operating close to the bone, having trimmed whatever fat they could find during the past decade. As a result, some arts organisations will clearly be under threat if the government's three-year spending proposals become policy.

Keith Cooper, director of public affairs at the Royal Opera House, believes the government is changing

Arts organisations fear the government's spending plans, announced two weeks ago, will harm Britain's cultural life and may force some of them to close. Debra Craine reports

ing course. "This represents such a reversal of the positive trend over recent years towards more adequate arts funding," he says. "It means one can't make the sort of investment in either artistic repertoire or the physical fabric of a building that one needs."

Anthony Everitt, secretary-general of the Arts Council, is more optimistic. "We shouldn't forget that over the last two financial years we had a 27 per cent increase, so we are starting from a good position. That's not to say it won't be very painful. But the secretary of state has done his best for us."

"We will have to focus on what business would call its core business: support for artists and arts organisations. There are things we do that aren't directly related to our support for artists and arts organisations, for example giving money for a composer to write a piece of music. So, some difficult choices may have to be made."

What kind of choices are we talking about? Clive Priestley, chairman of the London Arts Board, believes some companies, already faced with cuts in local authority spending, will be forced to close. "Such a two-pronged attack on public support for the arts, coupled with the recession, could have serious consequences including closure of some arts organisations."

At the Royal Opera House, the Arts Council's biggest client, financial constraints have already affected artistic decisions. Acting on criticisms in the Warnock Report, the management has cancelled its

new production of Halévy's opera *La Juive*, along with a revival of MacMillan's full-length ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas*, which has been replaced by a safer box-office bet, *The Sleeping Beauty*. This is in addition to a pay freeze and a scheme of redundancies.

Cooper insists further cuts in funding cannot be accommodated. "We have tightened our belt as tight as it possibly can be at the

'Many are already operating close to the bone, having trimmed whatever fat they could find'

moment. We've reviewed every area of cost, removing new productions, stuffing in more performances, doing everything to reduce costs and generate more income. "We can't make further cuts without actually compromising our ability to generate income. One could do more revivals but you can only revive *Magic Flute* a certain number of times before the audience runs out."

The South Bank Centre sees cuts in funding as jeopardising its reputation as a leading arts centre. Artistic initiatives at the centre's three concert halls would suffer, things like the recent Poetry International festival.

"Our own promotions would be much more difficult," explains Snowman. "We have turned the Festival Hall into an arts centre with the poetry library, 150 literature events a year, the art gallery. By changing the QEH and the Purcell Room we have been able to include a lot of dance. We have become the vibrant arts centre we were supposed to be. The serious cuts which this represents will make it more difficult for us to become a dance and arts centre, and not just halls where things go on."

One of the South Bank's main clients is English National Ballet, which has an annual Christmas season in the Festival Hall. The company's chairman, Pamela Lady Harlech, says if the proposed cuts were to be passed on to ENB, "it would result in a shortfall of more than half a million pounds in total over the next three years."

"In the current economic climate we cannot make up these figures by additional fund-raising or sponsorship. If we have that shortfall it will have to be passed on to our customers. There might be fewer performances; we certainly would probably have to cut down repertoire. God knows, we wouldn't be able to do new productions. We might not be able to go to as many places around the UK, and we might have to put ticket prices up."

Ruth Mackenzie, executive director of Nottingham Playhouse, points out that "it's ironic that the government says to the arts you must be more grown up in your planning; you must try to have a proper plan with proper budgets to

make you more efficient". So we have three-year plans with proper budgets. But now, because there isn't the promised 3.5 per cent planning figure we were given, God knows if our budgets are worth the acres of Amazonian forest that were felled to print them."

What will Mackenzie do if Nottingham's funding is reduced? "The only place to make cuts is in hiring artists and making sets. I can't cut the rent or the heating and lighting bills; I don't believe I can cut the staff. I can only reduce the quality of our work and that's a vicious circle because you earn less at the box office when audiences see that you're not so good as you used to be."

Such protestations do not worry the officials at the Department of National Heritage. They point out that by the end of 1995-96, the value of the grant to the Arts Council in real terms will have been maintained in comparison with 1991-92. And besides, they say, spending plans are always open to alteration.

"The government isn't saying it is planning to cut Arts Council spending," claims a department spokesman. "These are planned expenditures in light of present circumstances; it doesn't mean they are firm commitments. They could well be altered. The figures will be looked at in a year in light of the public expenditure situation then."

In the meantime, arts organisations will be lobbying furiously, hoping to change the government's plans before it is too late. But no matter how successful they are, uncomfortable decisions will still have to be made. If there is less money around to play with, somebody will have to be hurt.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Party food, too rich, proves indigestible

Indulgence is traditional at this time of year, which may explain *The Feast of Christmas* (Channel 4), a five-part series that began last night. Food and drink writer Paul Levy is the presenter, with a style somewhere between *Highway* (Levy as Sir Harry Secombe) and *Majesty* (Levy graciously offering candid glimpses of his home and family).

We watched two women put up greenery to decorate Chateau Levy for the big day. "Tanya and Penny will have to remove that before January 6," observed our indolent host. Apparently, "the same guests come back most years, among them several good, even celebrated cooks." Cue shot of a Raymond Blanc hook-jacket.

The guests' culinary backgrounds being Chinese, American, Indian, French and Hungarian, the "awfully boring" Brussels sprouts are shredded and stir-fried, with ginger, garlic and chilli. "I'm inordinately proud of the fact that we not only grew the Brussels sprouts in the garden, but the garlic and chilli as well," said Levy.

With a brief as wide as his smug smile, Levy is not only attempting an overview of Christmas rituals around the world and through the ages, but also a potted analysis of how earlier festivals, from Saturnalia to Viking fire rites for the Winter Solstice, were subsumed into it.

Technically, the show (directed by Chris Goddard) was overwrought. There were shots of a van driver reflected in his own wing-

mirrors as he delivered Loch Fyne oysters to an unconvincedly surprised Levy; our twinkling host was then filmed seeking exotic spices and condiments from a cupboard in which a hapless camera operator had been previously secreted.

Over-extended scenes of officers and NCOs of the Parachute Regiment offering rum-enriched tea to junior recruits before dawn on Christmas Day, and later serving them dinner, illustrated the tradition of role reversal which goes back to the Romans, and was adopted by the Christians in the practice of electing boy bishops. For this, cue shots of a self-conscious choirboy in borrowed episcopal gear at Hereford Cathedral.

Tiresome sequences of Dickensian costume frolics in Rochester underpinned a discourse on how present-day "traditions" can mainly be blamed on *Pickwick Papers* and *A Christmas Carol*. We got a brisk trot through the possible origins of Father Christmas before a nod towards Chanukkah, the Jewish festival of Purification. This was rounded off by Levy actually cooking something: potato latkes.

All the social anthropology meant that, otherwise, real food got barely a mention. Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, provided a recipe for the one thing of use to the general viewer: a low-fat Christmas pudding. The programme-makers should have been similarly weight-conscious.

TONY PATRICK

RADIO REVIEW

Not much of a view

Radio 3 devised two ingenious programmes for last weekend. One was fascinating; the other a disaster. The disaster was David Hockney's *Mountain Drive* on Friday. The expatriate artist is well known for a ride he likes to take through the Santa Monica mountains while he is playing selected passages of Wagner on his car stereo. The producer Judith Bumpus took her microphone along. Off we all shot and David Hockney talked.

We might have put up with the fact that we couldn't see the sea or the mountains, and with the confused din of Wagner and screaming wheels in the background, but for 45 minutes Hockney talked — and said absolutely nothing. We heard "There's never anyone on these roads" at least ten times. "Music's big, nature's big, isn't it? And they're both sublime."

Then there was the thrusting, "The thing about these mountains is the way they thrust up, isn't it?" "Look — you can see the volcanic thrust now." "This is the same mountain — but it's only when we see this side that we see the thrust of it."

It was as though Hockney had gone so far along the road to fame that he had lost all need or even ability to say anything interesting. Poor Bumpus seemed to have hidden herself under the seat, her

faint voice piping up only three or four times. She must have been wanting to bury her head and get away from the disappointing boredom of it all.

At Sunday lunch-time in *Table Talk*, on the other hand, Rabbi Lionel Blue was absolutely fascinating as he tried to cook the Last Supper in his kitchen. While he stirred a paste of grated apple, red wine and cinnamon, he explained that he was assuming the Last Supper was a Passover supper — but he wasn't wholly convinced of that. Things like the dipping were very recognisable, but there was no fun and there were no children around, which all made it seem very strange.

A Dominican friend confirmed that St John's Gospel suggested that it was the Crucifixion, rather than the Last Supper, that took place at Passover. Then there was a discussion of how food is important as such to Jewish religion, whereas in Christian symbolism the meaning of the Supper became separated from its physical origins.

The presenter, Leslie Forbes, helped to stimulate the discussion with her naive questions; but she must learn not to interrupt, and also how to pronounce names. It is not "Leonardo" da Vinci or "Isreal".

DERWENT MAY

Artisans of the possible

How do you make an exhibition about Scottish inventors which will appeal beyond the fourth forms of Edinburgh schools, to Europeans and to European heads of government?

The answer is to get Scotland's best-known art filmmaker to design it. "We hadn't got the right mix of knowledge and vision in-house," says Sheila Brock, head of public affairs at the National Museum of Scotland, "so we asked Murray Grigor."

Grigor, chairman of the Edinburgh Film Festival, has won a string of awards for his

Simon Tait has a preview of a show celebrating Scots' past inventiveness

films, mostly but not always about Scottish artists. His latest is on the life and work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. "Film, television and exhibitions aren't so different," says Grigor. "An exhibition is only your own, personal, interactive film, isn't it?"

So when John Major and his counterparts descend on Edinburgh on December 11 for the European Summit they will find the Royal Scottish Museum's huge Victorian main hall filled with what at first will seem a jumble of objects, from a mackintosh to a dinosaur, which actually fit together in an extraordinary chain of inventiveness over the last 300 years.

Most of the £100,000 cost is being met by the Scottish Office's industry department. "They didn't care when it started or how long it was on

for, so long as it was up and running on December 11," says Brock. It has had to be devised and designed in a third of the time such projects usually take, and opens on St Andrew's Day, November 30. Hanging from the roof will be a 70ft banner representing Robert Stevenson's 1807 lighthouse built for the Bell Rock. Stevenson's grandson was R.L. whose designs for *Treasure Island* were made before he wrote the novel, and will be here; so will a representation of the kind of alchemy Stevenson wrote about in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*; then from distillation to steam, to James Watt and so on.

Also hanging from the ceiling will be a mobile made of ploughs, celebrating James Small's invention of the mouldboard plough, which not only broke the hard Scottish upland earth but turned it over. The Oliver brothers took it to the American pioneers and sold it in component parts, so that it became the "plow that broke the plains".

The main hall's fishpond will have a large model of an oil rig on it; another model will be the bore which has drilled the Channel Tunnel; there will be a triple expansion engine; neon, discovered by William Ramsay; the universal language devised in the 17th century by Sir Thomas Urquhart (translator of Rabelais) which was so complex he barely understood it himself; the vacuum flask of James



Murray Grigor: "an exhibition is an interactive film"

Dewar: an exhibit on the once respected science of phrenology, once seated opposite the museum in Chambers Street; digestive biscuits; a model of the Forth Bridge, whose revolutionary design with its perfect balance was based on the skeleton of a dinosaur.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who discovered the idea of forensic detection while studying medicine at Edinburgh University and is said to have based the character Sherlock Holmes on his tutor, will be there; so will the body-snatchers, Burke and Hare, who murdered in the interests of biological science. Grigor's other point is that

the really key inventors are not remembered, and the near-men like John Logie Baird (who is in the exhibition) are household names.

Who has ever heard of James Clerk Maxwell (philosopher and physicist, 1831-1879), without whose telemetric experiments, Grigor says, modern space technology would still be a thing of the future? Or Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), Maxwell's friendly rival, who laid the first transatlantic cable after inventing the first laws of thermodynamics? Or the polymath D'Arcy Thompson (1860-1948), who joined the study of classics, mathematics and biology together and whose book *On Growth and Form* influenced artists and scientists alike?

"The space I have to do it in is one of Europe's great and under-used gallery spaces, but built by an engineer, Francis Fowke," says Grigor, finally. "And he was an Englishman."

Seeds of Change. The Royal Scottish Museum (031-225 7534), Edinburgh from Monday.

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The wicker hamper measures about 19cm high, 44cm wide and 30cm deep, and contains: cake and pudding, plus a 15oz jar of mince meat, 6oz jar of mandarin liqueur butter, and a bottle of Pedro Ximenez sherry by Emilio Lustau. Price: £69.95.

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مكتبة الأمل

Jubilee: a slow lifeline for Docklands

The final "i" will be dotted any day on the deal between the government and the private sector to extend the Jubilee line from Green Park to Stratford in east London, via south London and Docklands.

So says the London Docklands Development Corporation, a bastion of optimism about the future of Docklands. For once its optimism seems justified. The government this month pledged £1.4 billion of public funding for the extension, and the private sector, in the shape of Canary Wharf's bankers, is expected to stump up the remaining £400 million over 25 years.

The corporation hopes that many residential and commercial waverers will now move east. "It will be extremely good news for east London and a boost to confidence in London Docklands when this agreement is reached," says Michael Pickard, the corporation's chairman. "The line will give Docklands a direct connection to the West End, and for the first time the area will be fully integrated into the capital's Tube network."

For potential Docklanders, the Tube journey from Canary Wharf, in the heart of Docklands on the Isle of Dogs, to London Bridge will take eight minutes, to Waterloo 12 minutes and to Green Park 17 minutes.

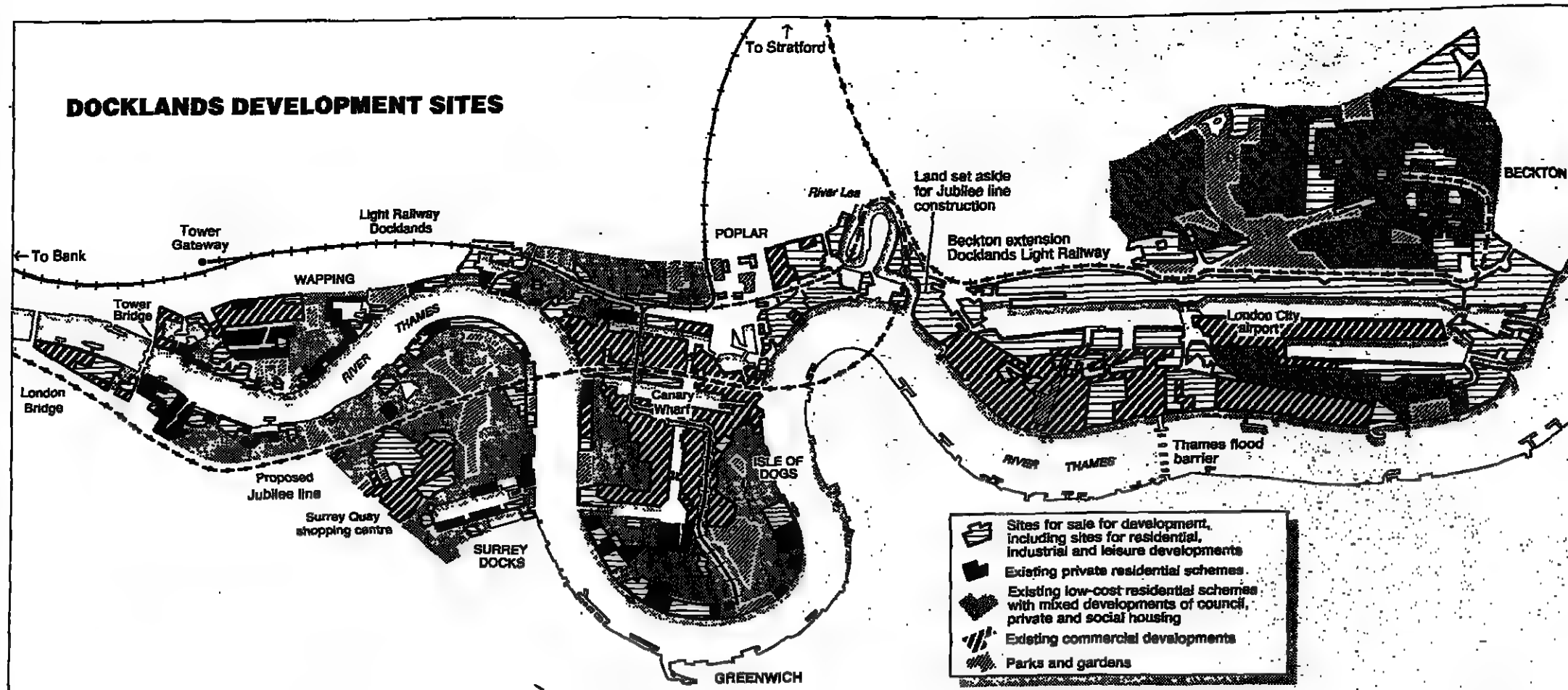
The times from Surrey Quays, on the south side of the river, are slightly shorter. The journey from Surrey Quays to London Bridge will take five minutes, to Waterloo nine minutes, and to Green Park 14 minutes.

The line will spur interest in developments along its path. The first stop after London Bridge is Bermondsey, south of Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. At present, Bermondsey has no accessible Tube, the closest being London Bridge or Tower Hill. Most redevelopment has taken place to the east of Tower Bridge, with schemes such as Surrey Wharf and Horsleydown Square.

Tim Whitney, of Savills, says: "Many prospective buyers have been deterred from buying because Bermondsey is a 15-minute walk to the Tube."

Flats in Butlers Wharf are available only for rent, but the Cardamom Building, a warehouse conversion, has been a bestseller. More than 50 flats have been bought there in the past year.

The next stop is Canada Water, in Surrey Quays. The area is dotted with red-brick housing developments, more village than the



The go-ahead for the Tube link is being welcomed by the property developers. However, as Rachel Kelly found, the revitalisation will be a gradual process, not an overnight boom

warehouses of Wapping, and already has two Tube stations: Rotherhithe and Surrey Quays on the East London line, which links up with the Metropolitan and district line at Whitechapel.

The Jubilee line will improve access to the West End and Canary Wharf, now difficult to reach from the south side other than by vehicle or Thames Line River Bus. The greatest impact will be felt in the Isle of Dogs. Here prices are depressed as doubts about Canary Wharf's future take their toll. For example, four-bedroom houses are for sale at less than £100,000.

On the north side of the river, in Wapping, Limehouse and St Katharine's Dock, and further downstream at the Royal Docks and Beckton, the Jubilee line's

effect will be limited to a general boost to the area's confidence.

More relevant to Wapping and Limehouse is the opening of the Limehouse link road early next year, which will restore Limehouse as a quiet backwater with some fine 18th-century houses and uncorrupted streets.

A Georgian townhouse in Narrow Street, on sale through Savills for £375,000, was once used by ship's captains, awaiting the building of their vessels at the time of the Napoleonic wars.

The Jubilee line go-ahead means that developers are again biting at deals, buying land and restarting developments that have lain idle. Barratts, for example, has just resumed work at a site in Surrey

Quays. Fairview Homes has bought 2.4 acres of land, now exchanging hands for about £500,000 an acre, to build 113 houses on the Isle of Dogs.

All this, of course, assumes that the Jubilee line will work smoothly. Alf Benning, aged 71, who has been a resident of Poplar for 30 years and belongs to Splash, the residents' association, says: "Of course, it is good news that the Jubilee line is going ahead. But that is only if they make sure it is more than a Mickey Mouse train like the Docklands Light Railway. I'm fed up with the experts telling us how marvellous things are."

Residents will also have to live with four years of building while the line is put in. While the corporation trumpets the 12,000 building jobs that will be generated at the peak of the work, Mr Benning emphasises the noise, dirt and stress for residents living close

to the building work, especially the terminals. Splash is campaigning for £10 million compensation for the stress caused to a thousand residents by the building of the Limehouse link. The Jubilee experience should be less upsetting because a lot of the work is underground, but Mr Benning's advice is to avoid Docklands until the line and much else besides are finished. "Docklands will be marvellous," Mr Benning says. "But the project is never-ending."

Inevitably, the area has none of the charm of organic growth. The map shows the number of sites still to be developed. Great tracts of land on the 5,500-acre site remain derelict. Much else is a building site. The East India Dock tunnel, the Poplar link, the Limehouse link

and the Prestons Road flyover all remain to be completed. Although much private housing has been built — in 1981 only 5 per cent of housing stock was owner-occupied, against 44 per cent now — much remains to be done before there are prime residential areas with schools, shops and recreational facilities to match.

The area is highly diversified. In parts, much of the housing is still owned by councils or housing associations, in areas with high unemployment. Even Mr Whitney agrees there is no great hurry to move to

Docklands. "Nobody is expecting the area to boom overnight," he says. However, low interest rates, making buying cheaper than renting, have increased confidence in the area, and a steadily diminishing supply of quality property for sale means that he expects the market to improve gradually. Buyers who come early will be rewarded by lower prices, he says.

They will also gain a home close to the heart of London, its buildings refreshing after the rows of suburban terraces. The best schemes combine the charm of Dickensian London with its warehouses and echoes of a maritime past and the modernity of the 21st century with huge rooms and high ceilings.

Six leading developers wrote to The Times in July, emphasising the importance of the Jubilee line. "East London's successful regeneration can take place only if there is proper infrastructure to support it," they said. Their wish is likely to be granted any day now. But successful regeneration will take years, if not decades and centuries.

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Lies in defence of provocation When justice demands extra time

Regina v Richens

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hutton and Mr Justice Holland

[Judgment November 5]

Lies and attempts to cover up a killing were not necessarily inconsistent with a defence of provocation, for one who killed in a fit of passion might have been provoked by a long history of provocation, and thereby faced possibly lengthy imprisonment might have almost as strong reasons for attempting to conceal his deed as one who killed deliberately.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by Andrew Ronald Munn, R. 1992 now aged 23, from conviction in March 1988 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Pann and a jury) of murder by stabbing William Choi after the appellant's girlfriend had complained that Choi had raped her.

A verdict of manslaughter was substituted and sentence of seven years was passed in place of life imprisonment.

Sir Joseph Walker-Smith, who did not appear before the court, the appellant, Mr Geoffrey Carey, QC

and Mr Richard Ansell for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that when the appellant was aged 17 he caused the death of William Choi by stabbing him. The only issue for the jury was whether it was murder or manslaughter by reason of provocation. When seen by his police he had lied about his reasons for trying to cover up and lying about his involvement.

That approach appeared to overlook the vital and incontestable fact that a man who had killed by reason of loss of self-control and thereby faced lengthy imprisonment might have almost as strong reasons for attempting to conceal his deed and lie about his involvement as a man who had killed deliberately.

In directions about lies, when the issue was murder or manslaughter, the jury should be alerted to the fact that, before they could treat lies as tending towards proof of guilt of the offence charged, they had to be sure that

really did not know what he was doing as embodying a correct direction about the requirements of a defence of provocation.

The jury were being invited to consider as potentially probative of the Crown's case of murder and as justifying the rejection of the appellant's account of provocation, the facts that (i) he had tried to conceal his crime, (ii) he had lied about his involvement, and (iii) he had lied about his reasons for trying to cover up and lying about his involvement.

That approach appeared to overlook the vital and incontestable fact that a man who had killed by reason of loss of self-control and thereby faced lengthy imprisonment might have almost as strong reasons for attempting to conceal his deed and lie about his involvement as a man who had killed deliberately.

In directions about lies, when the issue was murder or manslaughter, the jury should be alerted to the fact that, before they could treat lies as tending towards proof of guilt of the offence charged, they had to be sure that

there was not some possible explanation which destroyed their potentially probative effect.

As Lord Devlin had said in *Broadhurst v The Queen* [1964] AC 441, 457, there was a natural tendency for a jury to think that, if an accused was lying, it must be because he was guilty and, accordingly, convict him without more ado. It was the judge's duty to make clear to them that that was not so.

The trial judge's omission to give such a direction, coupled with his indication that the jury might regard the appellant's conduct after killing in trying to conceal what he had done and his lies as probative of murder rather than manslaughter, amounted to a material misdirection.

The issue of lies went to the core of the defence and the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 could not be applied. The appeal had to be allowed, and a conviction for manslaughter substituted.

Solicitors: Kidd Rapin, Aylesbury (who did not appear below); CFS, Central Courts Branch.

Costello v Somerset County Council

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment November 9]

In the absence of special circumstances the court would not ordinarily exercise its inherent jurisdiction to dismiss a plaintiff's action for want of prosecution unless the delay complained of had caused the defendant a real risk of prejudice. A similar approach should govern applications made under Orders 19, 24, 25, 28 and 34 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

An application for an extension of time under Order 3, rule 5 should ordinarily be granted where the overall justice of the case required the action to be allowed to proceed.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by Mr Joseph H. W. Costello, the plaintiff in a personal injury action, from Sir Gerald Sheldone, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who had (i) affirmed the district judge's decision made on the application of the defendants, Somerset County Council, striking out the plaintiff's action for failure to serve a statement of claim, and (ii) dismissed the plaintiff's application for an extension of time for serving the statement of claim. The plaintiff's delay was of four and a half months. He accepted that there was no good reason for it, but the defendants could show no realising prejudice to the plaintiff.

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Mr Stephen Archer for the plaintiff; Mr Timothy Preston, QC, Mr H. J. De Lottinville for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the judge had directed himself in accordance with *Prior v Dunningham* [1991] 3 WLR 340 in which Lord Bridge had said that "if the officer deliberately acts outside the scope of his authority, he cannot render the governor or the Home Office vicariously liable for his tortious conduct".

Those remarks might well be obiter because the case turned on the question of false imprisonment and restraint and did not give rise to any necessity for determining the nature of the tort of false imprisonment in public office and the nature of vicarious liability therefor.

However, her Ladyship was satisfied, having carefully considered the arguments and the authorities, that the Home Office's argument in respect of the allegation was correct and that the plaintiff's claim on that basis was unsustainable in law.

Solicitors: B. M. Simberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

it should consider the plaintiff's loss, since it was for him to satisfy the court that time should be extended, and if he failed, the cross-application became a mere formality.

His Lordship referred to *Erskine Communications Ltd v Worthington* (The Times July 8, 1991) [CA (Civil Division) Transcript No 725 of 1991], which was not brought to Sir G. Sheldone's attention, where Lord Justice Mustill had deprecated the attempt which was constantly made to cram the general discretions conferred by the rules of court into a set of rigid formulae.

He had said that although in *Prior v Dunningham* the court started with the application to extend it did not follow that that was the only permissible point of entry. Rejecting the submission based on *Prior v Dunningham* that a plaintiff was late in tendering a statement of claim had to furnish a convincing excuse for the delay if his application for an extension was to succeed, he said:

"It would be absurd to say that every instance of overlooking the time limit without excuse however short and however lacking in harmful consequence to the defendant should be punished by the loss of the action."

It was plain that the court in *Erskine* would not have accepted the stark proposition in *The Supreme Court Practice 1993*.

Counsel for the plaintiff had criticised the decision in *Prior v Dunningham*. He had argued that it was inconsistent with the time of authority established by *Allen v Sir Alfred McAlpine & Sons Ltd* [1968] 2 QB 229 and *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297 to dismiss actions where the delay had caused no serious risk of prejudice to the defendant.

He had submitted that the delay involved in almost every application for such dismissal carried with it a failure by the plaintiff to comply with a procedural time

limit, and thus his need to apply for an extension of time; and that to refuse an extension and therefore dismiss the action merely because the delay was inexcusable was wholly inconsistent with authority.

Counsel for the defendants did not argue for a rigid approach as suggested by *The Supreme Court Practice 1993* but pointed to the delay and the repeated reminders and threats made by the defendants.

The present problem arose at the intersection of two principles, each in itself salutary. The first was that the rules of court and the associated rules of practice, devised in the public interest to promote the expeditious dispatch of litigation, had to be observed.

That principle was reflected in a series of rules giving the court a discretion to dismiss on failure to comply with a time limit (Order 19, rule 1; Order 2, rule 1(1); Order 25, rule 1(4) and (5); Order 28, rule 10(1) and Order 34, rule 2(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court) and also in the court's inherent jurisdiction to dismiss for want of prosecution.

The second principle was that a plaintiff should not in the ordinary way be denied an adjudication of his claim on its merits because of procedural default, unless the default caused prejudice to his opponent for which an award of costs could not compensate. That principle was reflected in the general discretion to extend time (see Order 3, rule 5) and in the liberal approach generally adopted in relation to the amendment of pleadings.

Neither principle was absolute. The resolution of the problem could not be governed by a single universally applicable rule of thumb. A rigid mechanistic approach was inappropriate.

Where there were cross-applications there could be no general rule that the plaintiff's application should be heard first, with dis-

missal of his action as an inevitable consequence if he failed to show a good reason for his procedural default.

In the great mass of cases it was appropriate for the court to hear both summonses together, since in considering what justice required the court was concerned to justice to both parties and the case was best viewed in the round.

It was of little or no significance whether or not the plaintiff made an application for an extension: if he did not the court considering the defendant's application to dismiss would inevitably consider the plaintiff's position, and if it refused to dismiss, it had power to grant the plaintiff any necessary extension whether separate application was made or not.

Cases involving procedural abuse or questionable tactics might call for special treatment, as would cases of contumacious and intentional default and where a default was repeated or persisted in after a peremptory order.

But in the ordinary way and in the absence of special circumstances a court would not exercise its inherent jurisdiction to dismiss a plaintiff's action for want of prosecution unless the delay complained of after the issue of proceedings had caused at least a real risk of prejudice to the defendant.

A similar approach should govern applications made under Orders 19, 24, 25, 28 and 34. The approach to applications under Order 3, rule 5 should not in most cases be very different, in short, that ordinarily such applications should be granted where the overall justice of the case required that the action be allowed to proceed.

His Lordship would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: Clarke Willmott & Clarke, Taunton; Porter Bartlett & Mayo, Yeovil.

Money which is to be ignored for legal aid

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Clark

Before Mr Justice Macpherson [Judgment October 14]

Money received by a litigant in connection with the incident giving rise to the legal aid application had been made was not to be taken into account in assessing the litigant's means for computing the amount of her contribution.

Therefore the Department of Social Security and the Legal Aid Board erred, when assessing the applicant's maximum contributions under her legal aid certificate, in taking into account the receipt of a lump sum refund of £13,107.47 when the refund was on medical grounds as a result of the injury complained of in the dispute in respect of which she was legally aided and where she was contractually obliged to accept some of the payment under her pension scheme in return for a lump sum refund allowance.

Paragraph 14B of Schedule 3 of the Civil Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources) Regulations (SI 1989 No 338), as inserted by the Civil Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1990 No 484) provides: "In computing the amount of

capital of the person concerned there shall be wholly disregarded any capital payment received from any source which is made in relation to the incident giving rise to the dispute in respect of which the legal aid application has been made."

Mr Justice Macpherson so held in the Queen's Bench Division in allowing an application for judicial review by Dorothy Ann Clark of the decision of the Legal Aid Board, and/or the Department of Social Security, in an undated letter received by her on February 10, 1992 discharging her legal aid certificate.

Mr Stephen Irwin for the applicant; Mr Robert Jay for the Legal Aid Board and the Department of Social Security.

PHILIP JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that it was necessary to give a purposive interpretation to the regulations which required a wide meaning to be given to the words "in relation to".

Provided there was a reasonable nexus between the incident for which the legal aid was given and the payment, the purpose of regulation 14B was to retain the money in the hands of the legally aided person.

Solicitors: Barcan Woodward, Bristol; Mr Robert Martin, Bristol and Solicitor, DSS.

Limit of liability for misfeasance

Raza v Home Office

Before Mr Justice Ewbank [Judgment June 15]

The Home Office could not be held vicariously liable for an employee's misfeasance in public office because the tort involved deliberate abuse of power which carried the employee outside the scope of his employment.

Mr Justice Ewbank so held in the Queen's Bench Division, allowing an application by the Home Office to strike out of the statement of claim of the plaintiff, Steven Raza, an allegation of misfeasance in public office.

Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff; Mr Neil Gurnham for the Home Office.

MRS JUSTICE EWSWORTH said that the plaintiff's claim arose through an alleged incident while he was a prisoner on remand. The allegation was of misfeasance in public office in respect of which he sought to fix the Home Office with vicarious liability.

The plaintiff's case was that the Home Office was responsible for the wrongful act of a prison officer. If it was an authorised act or if it was a wrongful or unauthorised mode of doing some act which he was employed to do in the course of his employment.

There was no issue argued before the court that an action

would lie against the individual prison officer or officers, but they had not been sued. Misfeasance in public office was the tort of deliberate abuse of power. The gist of such an action for damages had been held to be malice.

The Home Office's case was that there could not be vicarious liability for such a tort and they relied upon the decision of the House of Lords in *R v Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison, Ex parte Hughes* [1991] 3 WLR 340 in which Lord Bridge had said that "if the officer deliberately acts outside the scope of his authority, he cannot render the governor or the Home Office vicariously liable for his tortious conduct".

Those remarks might well be obiter because the case turned on the question of false imprisonment and restraint and did not give rise to any necessity for determining the nature of the tort of misfeasance in public office and the nature of vicarious liability therefor.

However, her Ladyship was satisfied, having carefully considered the arguments and the authorities, that the Home Office's argument in respect of the allegation was correct and that the plaintiff's claim on that basis was unsustainable in law.

Solicitors: B. M. Simberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Good practice to direct jury on burden of proof in alibi

Regina v Preece

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Simon Brown

There was no general rule of law that a direction to the jury as to the burden of proof in relation to alibi evidence had to be given in all cases where alibi was raised as a defence.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stoughton, Mr Justice Warrington and Mr Justice McCullough) so stated on October 8 in allowing an appeal by Conrad Preece against his conviction at Snaresbrook Crown Court (Mr

Recorder Bellof, QC and a jury) in November 1990 of robbery and assault occasioning actual bodily harm, for which he was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for two years, on each count concurrent.

He was also fined £750 or 30 days imprisonment in default, and ordered to pay compensation of £350 and prosecution costs of £652.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that whether or not a direction on the burden of

proof in relation to alibi evidence was required in all cases was common and good practice, where an alibi was raised, to direct the jury that the defendant did not have to prove he was elsewhere at the time for the prosecution to prove his whereabouts.

Once a judge had embarked on a direction as to the effect of alibi evidence it was essential to get it right and that had not happened here. Accordingly there had been a misdirection and the conviction would be quashed.

Test for serving writ outside jurisdiction

Seoconar Far East Ltd v Bank Markazi Jomhouri

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment October 28]

The test to be applied, for the purposes of deciding whether a plaintiff should be granted leave under Order 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to serve a writ out of the jurisdiction, was whether he had a good arguable case on the merits.

The threshold of that test was not so low as merely to exclude the unarguable. In order to justify the granting of leave the plaintiff had to show that his case had a good chance of success. Notwithstanding the recent obiter dicta in the contrary, that traditional approach was still good law.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith dissenting) when, *inter alia*, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Seoconar Far East Ltd, from a decision of Mr Justice Stirling on April 10, 1991. The plaintiffs were granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The plaintiff, an international arms dealer, claimed US\$6,939,660 under an unconfirmed order of credit issued by the defendants, Bank Markazi Jomhouri Islamic Iran, and payable at the London Branch of Bank Mellat. The sum claimed was for two shipments of artillery shells which had been delivered to the Iranian Ministry of Defence.

The defendants had refused payment on the first and second presentation of the requisite documents because on each occasion it was alleged that the documents contained discrepancies.

The plaintiffs commenced proceedings against the defendants and applied for leave to serve the writ out of the jurisdiction. The judge gave leave in respect of the claim relating to the first presentation but refused leave with regard to the second presentation because that claim was insufficiently strong on the merits. The plaintiff appealed against the judge's refusal of leave on the latter.

Mr Anthony Clarke, QC and Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC and Mr Mark Haggard for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that it was common ground that the plaintiffs' claim fell within Order 11, rule 1, and that England was an appropriate forum. The case turned on whether the plaintiffs had established a sufficiently strong case on the merits.

The present case was the fifth in which the Court of Appeal had considered the principles which ought to govern the exercise of the court's discretion under Order 11, rule 4(2) in cases where the claim fell within one or other of the heads of Order 11, rule 1.

In each of the previous cases the court had been guided by the decision of the House of Lords in *Votho Horni v Hurni Tezistro v Korner* [1951] AC 869.

Although the test of "good arguable case" owed its origin to the argument of Sir Andrew Clark in that case, and its adoption by Lord Radcliffe (at p884-885) where he treated "strongly arguable" and "good case for argument" as synonymous, it had now been shown that, with the exception of Lord Tucker, and possibly Lord Oaksey, the House of Lords were in that case concerned exclu-

sively with the question of jurisdiction.

His Lordship had not been able to discover when "good arguable case" was first used in relation to the merits. But it had already become the established test by the time the Court of Appeal decided *Meall and Rohstoff AG v Donald Lufkin & Jenrette Inc* [1990] QB 391 where Lord Justice Slade had said, by way of elucidation, that the plaintiff had to show a good chance of success.

Mr Clarke accepted that good arguable case was the correct test, but he argued that it meant no more than a case which merited consideration, and that that was a very low and intentionally low threshold.

The purpose of the exercise in relation to the merits was, he said, the identification of hopeless cases. His Lordship profoundly disagreed. First, a threshold which was intended only to exclude the unarguable, would never have been described as a good arguable case. The question would have been whether the case was arguable, not whether it had a good chance of success.

Second, to set the threshold as low as Mr Clarke suggested would be to disregard numerous statements of the highest authority that the jurisdiction under Order 11 ought to be exercised with caution. To require a foreigner to answer a claim in the English courts it was not enough that the claim, if sound, could conveniently, or most conveniently be tried in England.

Nor was it enough that the conditions of Order 11, rule 1 were satisfied. The claim itself had to be of a certain strength. Traditionally the standard been set as a good arguable case. His Lordship could see no justification for lowering

that standard just because the court was persuaded that the other matters which fell for consideration on an application for leave to serve out had been fulfilled.

Mr Clarke relied on *Oversen Union Insurance Ltd v Inboarders* [1992] 1 Lloyd's Rep 439 and on a paragraph in Lord Justice Parker's judgment (at p448). As to that paragraph his Lordship would comment:

"I in holding that the plaintiffs need not show a probability that the case was within one of the heads of Order 11, Lord Justice Parker was departing from the unanimous decision of the Court of Appeal in *Attock Cement Co Ltd v Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade* [1989] 1 WLR 1147."

Lord Justice Parker's reliance on Lord Oaksey's speech was open to question since that speech could not be reconciled with the other speeches in *Korner's* case. Lord Oaksey was alone in thinking that the slightest evidence could ever suffice to bring the case within one of the heads in Order 11, rule 1.

3 If the paragraph was to be taken as lowering the traditional standard of proof in relation to the merits, then it was obiter. Lord Justice Parker had already decided in favour of the plaintiffs on the ground that they had a good arguable case.

The other authority on which Mr Clarke relied was *Banque Paribas v Cargill* [1992] 2 Lloyd's Rep 19 where Lord Justice Parker summarised the plaintiffs' case on the merits by holding that it was "worthy of consideration", an expression which he culled from Lord Tucker's speech in *Korner's* case. But it was clear from the context that Lord Justice Parker did not regard the expression as being synonymous with arguable.

There was no reason to suppose that in using the expression "worthy of consideration" Lord Justice Parker was intending to lower the standard or to depart from Lord Justice Slade's formulation in *Meall*.

His Lordship's conclusion was that, good arguable case on the merits, or good chance of success, should continue to be used as the standard for granting leave to serve out of the jurisdiction. If "worthy of consideration" meant the same as good arguable case, there was no problem.

If, on the other hand, it was intended to lower the threshold, so as to exclude only the plainly hopeless case, as Mr Clarke contended, his Lordship would dissent.

His Lordship would hold that as regarded the second presentation the plaintiff had failed to show a good arguable case on the merits. If his Lordship was wrong about the threshold he would, if necessary, hold that the plaintiffs had failed to show that their claim was worthy of consideration.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith dissented and Lord Justice Lloyd concurred with Lord Justice Lloyd.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Stephenson Harwood.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Multi-lingual opportunities

RECEPTIONIST WITH FLUENT SPANISH £15,000 p.a. Experienced Receptionist (11 yrs exp min) is sought to work for fast bank in City. Excellent presentation & communication skills. Age 20's pref.

FRENCH PA TO MARKETING MANAGER at TWICKENHAM £16,500 Major French manufacturer urgently seeks experienced PA with 4 yrs exp. Must have excellent communication skills to work in busy, challenging position. Duties include some translation & lots of liaison. Age 25 - 35.

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Apple Skills £8-9 p.h. As our successful temporary team continues to expand, we urgently require senior, professional secretaries with excellent Apple skills to join us. In return for your commitment, we will give you long term bookings in a prestigious international company based in Hammersmith, where the senior assignments are challenging and interesting. We offer a friendly, personal service and guaranteed rates of £8-9. Previous secretarial & PA experience essential. Age 25-45. Minimum 60 wpm typing. Please call Lyana, Lis or Lena on 071 497 6852.

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SECRETARY PA WITH FLUENT GERMAN Circa £17,000 A well established company in the City is looking for a PA with fluent German and English. Must have excellent communication skills and be able to handle a lot of incoming calls and have excellent communication skills. Age 20's pref. 55penn typing.

RECEPTION/TELEPHONE with 21 WPM for 400 groups. They need a PA to help them with a busy, fast-paced office. Must be able to handle a lot of incoming calls and have excellent communication skills. Age 20's pref. 55penn typing.

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Stamina doubt surfaces again after Remittance Man's win

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

REMITTANCE Man was installed as a stinging 5-4 favourite for the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day following a victory at Huntingdon yesterday, which prompted more questions than answers.

Encountering sticky ground for the first time during his distinguished chasing career, Nicky Henderson's star looked far from happy and had to work quite hard to win the four-runner Peterborough Chase.

The Queen Mother Champion Chase winner was already being neglected at by Richard Dunwoody before the final fence, where the challenging Uncle Ernie unfortunately fell to end the prospect of an exciting finish.

Remittance Man, who beat Jimmy Fitzgerald's chaser six lengths in the Arkle last year, would probably have held off but the pensive look on the face of Henderson and Dunwoody in the unsaddling enclosure underlined the doubts about suitable ground and stamina.

"We have had two dry winters and we know he loves fast ground. It is the first time in his chasing career he has

had sticky going and he was always beaten on it over hurdles."

"I am the first to admit it is not his best ground. I would not want it to come up that soft in the King George," Henderson said.

"They have gone a good gallop in testing ground and he's had what we wanted and that is to get a race into him. He was very big and Richard said he blew up going to the last. I had better tighten him up a bit before Kempton. At least he jumps as well out of



Henderson: pensive after Huntingdon display

that ground as he does on fast ground."

Yesterday's race was over two-and-a-half miles on a sharpish track and the case for Remittance Man staying three miles is, at best, unproven.

Significantly, William Hill pushed the winner out in the betting for the Cheltenham Gold Cup from 10-1 to 12-1. Given the worry about the going and trip at Kempton Park, the prices provided by Coral for the King George are close to an insult to intelligent punters. A waiting brief is advised. Coral go 5-4 Remittance Man, 2-1 The Fellow, 8-1 Bradbury Star and Docklands Express.

Francois Doumen, trainer of The Fellow, looks certain to run last season's King George winner in the Hennessy this Saturday, although bad weather in the English Channel may delay his arrival. "If we don't get heavy rain from now on, he is likely to run."

"I need the race for the horse before he goes for the King George, and from there to the Gold Cup. I have not got anything here to run him in and I don't want to send him away again for a prep race."

"If he runs on Saturday and in the King George, that will be fine for Cheltenham," the Lamorlaye trainer said.

Toby Balding was more bullish about the chances of Cool Ground lining up for Newbury's feature race. "He will have a hack tomorrow and a canter the day after. We will probably make a decision on Friday, but the race does not look as competitive as I thought it was going to be."

Henderson will make a decision about the participation of Brown Windsor and Sparkling Flame this morning after the pair have worked.

Gambling Royal was the latest Hennessy contender to be the subject of a gamble yesterday, being backed down to 7-1 with William Hill.

With growing concern about small fields - particularly in chases - David Oldry, chairman of the Jockey Club's race planning committee, yesterday gave details of a review of the whole National Hunt programme.

A draft version of "Competitive Racing under National Hunt rules," similar to that carried out for the Flat, will be produced.



Celebration time: Lydia Pearce enjoys a glass of champagne with one of her winners, Lots Of Luck.

Pearce captures first title in sparkling style

LYDIA Pearce was yesterday confirmed the champion lady amateur jockey of 1992 (George Rae writes).

In the Forté-sponsored series, Mrs Pearce won 12 races, accumulating a total of 181 points, a remarkable 131 ahead of her nearest challenger, Diana Jones.

The competitive series is based on the winning rider of each race receiving 12 points, the second five points, the third three and the fourth two.

As part of her prize, she received £1,000 from the sponsors and her weight, 8st

2lb, in champagne at a reception in London.

"I never thought I'd be in this position," Mrs Pearce said. "To be riding for the likes of Henry Cecil and John Gosden in the top ladies races is beyond my wildest dreams."

"My aim is to defend the title successfully next year but, of course, now I'm there to be shot at. I doubt if I'll have another year like this."

Mrs Pearce is the wife of Jeff Pearce, the Newmarket trainer, and has finished runner-up in the championship for the past two years.

Reveley team can celebrate with four at Hexham

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

MARY Reveley and Peter Niven, deserved recipients of two Derby awards next month, look the combination to follow today at Hexham where they can plunder four races.

Niven, who has already landed four five-timers during his steadily soaring career, can start the ball rolling for his principal employer by winning the Priestpottle Novices' Chase on Candy Tuff.

A winner three times in succession over hurdles last season, Candy Tuff is said to have taken to jumping fences well at home.

When racing over the smaller obstacles he also showed that he was well endowed with stamina. So today's trip should not pose a problem.

Terrible Gel has a sound chance of winning the Riding Mill Novices' Chase, having already made her mark at Southwell and Kells.

Mr Elk is arguably the weakest member of Reveley's raiding party. However, his opposition in the Bantle Hill Selling Handicap Hurdle is so poor that he is given the vote.

Niven's fourth winner can come through Watright, who is napped to win the Corbridge Handicap Chase.

On his seasonal debut at Sedgfield, he beat Bad Trade, Logamino and Clares Own to win the Vaux Breweries Handicap Chase.

The form of that race stands up under the closest inspection because the second, third and fourth have gone on to succeed at Haydock, Aintree and Ayr respectively.

No wonder the connections

of South Cross, the fifth horse home that day, have declined to take on Watright again on only 21b better terms.

Laurie O accounted for another of today's runners, Choice Challenge, when he won over today's course and distance first time out earlier this month.

No one is in a better position to assess the threat of Laurie O than Reveley, who trained him until he was sold for 9,600 guineas at Doncaster in May to his present handler, Ridley Lamb.

Niven also has a chance of riding a fifth winner with Camden Knight in the Linlithgow Handicap Hurdle.

However, he looks liable to be foiled by Signor Sassi, a promising third at Haydock last season.

At Hereford, I respect Martin Pipe's decision to take on Curlew with Land Of The Free since Mohana, another of his horses, managed to beat the former by half-a-length at Cheltenham recently.

Land Of The Free won on the Flat in France before joining his string.

Cid (2.00) and G'ime A Buzz (3.30) are other likely winners for Pipe there.

At Plumpton, Charles Eaton's bargain buy Stirrup Cup, who won by 20 lengths when making his seasonal debut there, can follow up in the Judy's Half Century Handicap Chase.

HEREFORD

MANDARIN	THUNDERER
12.30 Land Of The Free.	12.30 Curlew.
1.00 Calabrese.	1.00 Calabrese.
1.30 Smiles Ahead.	1.30 Smiles Ahead.
2.00 Cid.	2.00 Cid.
2.30 Light Vaneer.	2.30 Petty Bridge.
3.00 Bill Quill.	3.00 BURGUNDY BOY (nap).
3.30 G'ime A Buzz.	3.30 G'ime A Buzz.

RICHARD EVANS: 1.30 Smiles Ahead. 3.00 Burgundy Boy.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 BURGUNDY BOY.

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.30 MARDEN NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O; £1,300; 2m 10) (10 runners)
1 412 GILFARNA 11 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
2 318 MELTHERY 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
3 25180 SANDRO 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
4 25180 SANDRO 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
5 25180 SANDRO 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
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9 25180 SANDRO 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87
10 25180 SANDRO 10 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87

BETTING: 4-6 Calabrese, 3-1 Fizz, 4-1 Melter, 10-1 Sandro, 25-1 others.

1991: JUNE 11-10 Marden (8-1) R Dunwoody 17 m.

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FORM FOCUS

HARLEY 31 2nd of 7 in Marden Novice Hurdle at Huntingdon (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87.

2.30 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier £2,218; 3m 11 (10) (12 runners)

1 251-518 LIGHT VANEER 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87

2 251-518 LIGHT VANEER 13 (D.F.S.) (Mrs J. Smith) R Dunwoody 87

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax** (52941) 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** (58834335)
9.05 Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (510651) 9.45 **Rose King** Game show. The guest is... (5530233)
10.00 News regional news and weather (7352500) 10.05 **Playdays** For the very young (s) (5736309)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes Lesley Joseph touring a celebrity's home; Barbara Cartland with a romantic story; consumer affairs; and advice from agony aunt Claire Rayner (s). With News (Cee-fax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (4210350)
11.15 Pebble Mill Among Jud Spector's guests is pop singer Simon Carls (5975300) 12.35 **Regional News and Weather** (7800333)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Cee-fax) (52019)
1.30 Neighbours (Cee-fax) (s) (42123800) 1.50 **Elderado** (Cee-fax) (s) (7383049)
2.20 Snooker David Vine introduces quarter-final action from the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship at the Guild Hall, Preston (4783125)
3.50 Peckinpah's Elmo Tote. Puppet music show (s) (5273212) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Episode nine of the 13-part children's comedy/drama series (s) (4474000) 4.10 **The New York Bear Show** (s) (5880222) 4.20 **Walt on the Run**. Science fiction comedy thriller (s) (545877) 4.35 **Ipso Facto**. Thirteen-year-old Kate Johnson looks at the different kinds of relationships encountered in everyday life. (Cee-fax) (s) (5294554)
5.00 Newsround (16157) 5.10 **Grange Hill**. Children's drama set in a secondary school (s). (Cee-fax) (s) (2955903)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Cee-fax) (s) (585545). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) (5787)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (449). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Cee-fax) (s) (4212)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. The latest developments in the world of food and drink look at the problems faced by some French cheese-makers after a European directive, aimed at improving hygiene, threatens to ban Roquefort and other cheeses with distinctive labels. (Cee-fax) (s) (593)
8.00 Trainer. Drama series set in the world of horse-racing. Starring David McCullum, Susanah York, Mark Greenstreet and Patrick Ryecart. (Cee-fax) (s) (523670)
8.50 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson (s) (379125)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (4283)



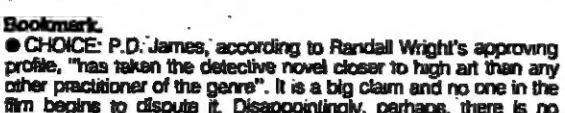
On safari: Michael Palin relaxes by a camp-fire (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Pole to Pole**. Michael Palin continues his north to south travels. Animal spotting in Kenya, visiting the site where Stanley was supposed to have met Dr Livingstone and taking a ferry down Lake Tanganyika to Zanzibar and Zimbabawe. (Cee-fax) (589941)
10.20 Sportsnight Introduced by Desmond Lynam. Snooker: the latest from the UK championship in Preston; Football: FA Cup first round replay highlights and reports on tonight's European club competitions; Motor Sport: news of the Lombard RAC Rally (284223) 11.50 **Weather** (585545). Ends at 11.55
2.15am BBC Select: Accountancy Television (201797) 3.15 **Legal Network Television Preview** (2533381). Ends at 3.45 4.00 **TV** Ends — France Panorama 4 (5413223). Ends at 4.50

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to receive a video on demand. VideoPlus can be used with most video recorders. For more details call 0800 121204 (only charged at 40p per minute plus 20p per line) or write to VideoPlus, Accounts Ltd, 5 Ivy House, Harewood Way, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS14 3TN. VideoPlus, VCR, VCR and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News** (4296477)
8.15 Westminster. A round up of business from both Houses (5540632)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me. Entertainment for infants (s) (5295045)
2.15 Tenis. How will Britain's, and especially East Anglia's, social and economic lives change now that the US Air Force is leaving after a 50 year presence? (5295230)
2.35 Country File. Rural issues explored by John Craven (s) (3078826)
3.00 News (Cee-fax) and weather (5082050) followed by Westminster Live presented by Iain MacWhirter (7575583) 3.50 **News** (Cee-fax), regional news and weather (1355106)
4.00 Snooker. Quarter-final action from the Royal Liver Assurance UK championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston (1777030)
5.35 Landscapes of England. In the first of four programmes, first shown in 1978, Professor W.G. Hoskins, who died earlier this year, explores the grandeur of the Lake District (s) (594108)
6.00 Star Trek. Classic science fiction drama series starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (s). (Cee-fax) (372903)
6.50 DFP. It's Rough Guide to the World's Islands. Magenta De Vine and Simon Dater with an alternative holidaymaker's view of Jamaica (s) (712787)
7.40 Top Gear Rally Report presented by Steve Lee live from the finish of the Lombard RAC Rally in Chester (519212)



The life and career of a crime writer: P.D. James (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Bookmark**
 ● **CRICKET**. P.D. James, according to Randal Wright's approving profile, "has taken the detective novel closer to high art than any other practitioner of the genre". It is a big claim and no one in the firm begins to dispute it. Disappointingly, perhaps, there is no attempt to substantiate it either. But if the achievement is taken for granted there is still much of interest about the woman behind it. Particularly striking are James's accounts of an unhappy childhood, lacking essential love, approval and security, and the distress of looking after a mentally ill husband. Without pushing art and life parallels too far, extracts from the novels help to fill out the portrait. James describes herself as by nature a doubter. She thinks we are disposed to selfishness and greed and doubts our capacity for moral improvement. Yet the one thing she does not doubt is the love of God (s) (527468)
9.00 M*A*S*H. The 407th's nurses decide to withdraw the medical privileges until someone dates their walking disaster colleague Edwin Fergusson (s) (1187380)
9.25 Nice Town
 ● **CHOICE**. As Guy Hibbert's bizarre drama moves into its middle episode, two things are clear. One is that for a black comedy, the blackness far outweighs the laughs, despite a jolly sequence tonight in which four of the leading characters are rushed off to hospital by a couple of caricature ambulance-men. The other is that the title is even more ironic than we suspected. The town is not nice at all, or least it has a very unhappy population. On the plot front Linda (Gwyneth Strong) has her artificially inserted baby and soon realises she has a husband (Philip Davis) who discovers he isn't the baby he thought he was. Meanwhile moral war continues to be waged against the hapless teenage lovers. It is definitely an original series, but so far a somewhat puzzling one. (Cee-fax) (s) (577274)
10.25 Fifth Column. A personal view on a topical subject (324496)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (456456)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and culture magazine (s) (710322)
11.55 Behind the Headlines. Linda Agnès is joined by author Peter Kurth who tries once and for all to solve the riddle of Anna Anderson. Was she really Anastasia, the daughter of Tsar Nicholas II? Joining in the discussion are Rodolfo Romanov, great nephew of Nicholas II, and historian Michael Thornton (464816)
12.25am Weather (515355)

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am** (2042516)
9.25 Keynotes. Music game hosted by Alastair Davall (4749090) 9.55 **Thames News** (5711729)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series (s) (1881859)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Farnham. Today's edition includes legal advice and Liz Coddard on coming to terms with the menopause. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by natural weather (5010639)
12.10 Afloat. Children's entertainment (s) (2910187)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Sonia Russell and Nicholas Owen (Oracle) (Weather) (3793038) 1.05 **Thames News** (5324651)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series (Oracle) (715651)
1.45 A Country Practice. Drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (714922)
2.15 Graham Kerr. The chef prepares pheasant and chestnuts with haberdasherie (7673333) 2.45 **Take the High Road**. Drama series set in the Highlands (7573333)
3.10 ITN News (5000456) 3.15 **Thames News** (5009767)
3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (3361108)
3.50 Bugs Bunny. Cartoon (2568380) 3.55 **Rupert the Bear** (1474635)
4.20 Crocodile. Drama series (Oracle) (572944)
4.55 The Tomorrow. Drama series (Oracle) (715651)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes (5773564)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) (Weather) (750835)
5.55 The Help (s) (72944)
6.00 Home and Away (s). (Oracle) (835)
6.30 Thames News (187)



Whose life is it anyway? Michael Aspel reveals all (7.00pm)

- 7.00 This is Your Life**. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (569)
8.00 Film: Beaches (1988) starring Demi Moore and Barbara Hershey. A warm-hearted story of a friendship between two women from vastly different backgrounds who meet by chance on an Atlantic City beach. One, a straitlaced New Yorker determined to make it as a singer, the other a woman from a privileged background destined to become a San Francisco lawyer. Directed by Gary Marshall (2564)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) (Weather) (79746)
10.30 Thames News (503583)
10.40 Football. Highlights from the first round of four matches in the European Champions League, including Glasgow Rangers' game at Inter Milan (5773333) 10.55 **Thames News** (503583)
11.00 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (462458)
12.10am Film: Lost Horizon (1937) starring Peter Finch, Michael York and Uli Lommel. A mystical version of James Hilton's classic adventure story about five people who stumble across a strange, hidden land where health, peace and longevity reign. The first hour is a faithful copy of the 1937 version starring Ronald Colman but when the group reach Shangri-La they are overwhelmed by Burt Lancaster-Hal David. Directed by Charles Jarrold (7845626)
2.45 America's Top Ten presented by Richard Blade (s) (21688)
3.15 Videoland (56207187)
4.00 The Late Show. Arts and culture magazine (s) (710322)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville, Tennessee (5452246)
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage news (39152084)
5.00 Three's a Crowd. American comedy series starring John Ritter (28084)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (42591). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Cartoons** (47011)
7.00 The Big Breakfast introduced by Chris Evans and Gaby Roshin (7870)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (189125)
9.30 Schools (564651)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (59361)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning series (15233) 1.30 **Euroeka's Castle**. Young people's entertainment (s) (54545)
2.00 Film: The Small Back Room (1948, b/w)
 ● **CHOICE**. The Michael Powell-Emery Pressburger team tackles Nigel Balchin's wartime novel about the deluding of a German bomb. The twist is that the hero, played by a favourite Powell-Pressburger actor David Farrar, has an artificial foot. The pain drives him to drink. He is also having a secret affair. The unexplored bomb gives him the chance to prove himself and mend relations with his lover (Kathleen Byron). The film was liked far more by the critics than the public. Powell thought they may have found it too cold. Certainly it lacks the imaginative flair of the team's great forerunners, such as *The Red Shoes* or *A Matter of Life and Death* but the dramatic bomb disposal sequence, shot on Chest Beach in Dorset, is 17 minutes of masterful suspense. Jack Hawkins, Cyril Cusack and Michael Gough score in supporting roles (8125)
4.00 Family Film. Drama about a Midlands-based Asian family (s) (800)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast moving general knowledge knock out quiz presented by William G. Stewart (212)



A model career: Cindy Crawford, Oprah Winfrey (5.00pm)

- 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show**. The guest is Cindy Crawford who talks about her modelling career, her new role as an MTV presenter, her personal video and her marriage to Richard Gere (s) (5823631)
5.55 The Magic Roundabout. Classic children's series narrated by Nigel Planer (s) (172926)
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Anneka Rice dashes around North Wales searching for hidden treasure (s). (Teletext) (81403)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (118187)
7.50 Party Political. Comment from a Plead Cymru politician (327477) (Teletext) (s) (500365)
8.00 Brookside. Topical soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (5670)
8.30 Travelog presented by Pete McCarthy. Sebastian Scott samples strife-torn Sri Lanka at the wheel of a 1947 Morris Minor and Alan Cohen takes to Scotland Border country. (Teletext) (s) (2477)
9.00 Dispatches. A report on the alleged role of Mrs Thatcher in the selling of British arms to the Middle East (347018)
9.45 Short and Curious. London South West. Martin Crimp's story of a suburban girls' night out that ends in tragedy. With Simon Tynell, Sarah Wimmer, David Leigh and Adjoa Andoh (745570)
10.00 The Golden Girls. Comedy from the delightful Miami matrons. (Teletext) (s) (500365)
10.30 Hale and Pearce. Gareth and Norman with another collection of comedy sketches (s)
11.00 The Prisoner. Cult drama series devised, produced and starring Patrick McGeehan (s). (Teletext) (55108)
12.00 The Steve Allen Show (b/w). American satirical comedy series from the 1950s. The guests are Liberace, Bea Arthur, later to become one of the *Golden Girls*, and Lou Costello (48404)
12.30am The Best of the Worst. More cringe-making clips from American television, presented by Greg Kinnear (s) (5577424)
12.55 Film: Daria (1989). Hindi drama about a self-made successful businessman and his conflicts with his two sons. Starring Govinda, Kimi and Kadar Khan. Directed by K. Ravishanker. English subtitles (55918713). Ends at 1.30

VARIATIONS

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WIMBLEDON PROFIT
TO FIND LTA'S
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1992

MOTOR RALLYING 46

PROBLEMS COST
MCRAE THE LEAD
IN RAC RALLY

Völler recovers from injury in time to lead Marseilles in European Cup tie at Ibrox

Rangers ready to take first step to final

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE British flag is about to be carried into uncharted territory. Rangers, when they take on Marseilles at Ibrox tonight, will become the first domestic representative to compete in the Champions League, the official term for the round robin tournament featuring the last eight clubs in the European Cup.

The Scottish champions are favoured not only to open with a victory but also to go on ultimately to win the less formidable of the two groups. Their other opponents are CSKA Moscow, whom they are to meet on neutral German ground in a fortnight, and FC Bruges.

The odds on Rangers fell once they avoided being drawn in the same quarter as AC Milan, the strong favourites to claim the cup. Nevertheless, the series of six matches are so far removed from their usual weekly duties that no one can be certain how they will fare.

Their superiority in Scotland's premier division is so crushing that Walter Smith, their manager, is able to rest members of his squad without endangering the club's prospects of collecting yet another title. He has so far used 24 players in a side which is five points clear of Heart of Midlothian, their nearest challengers, with a game in hand.

In between the two second round ties against Leeds United, Rangers picked up the first domestic honour on offer, the Skol Cup. Having won the double last season, the treble is within the reach of a club in

TEAMS
RANGERS (second round): A. Gorm, R. Gough, D. Richardson, J. Brown, D. McPherson, G. Stevenson, N. Murray, I. Stevenson, D. Gordon, M. Holliday, S. McColl, D. Durrant, A. McLeod, A. MacDonald, P. Hutton.
MARSEILLES (first round): F. Barthez, J. Arghenta, B. Bost, B. Casoli, M. Desailly, E. Di Meco, A. Baticle, F. Sison, D. Deshayes, A. Petit, R. Völler.

the process of outgrowing its own Scottish playground.

In beating Leeds 4-2 on aggregate, they established themselves as the unofficial British champions, a title which earned them £970,000, the prize for reaching the last eight. Each point they gain at home and away against Marseilles, CSKA Moscow and Bruges will be worth another £225,000.

Throw in the gate receipts, which will probably amount to more than £1 million, and Rangers are bound to enhance their boast as Britain's richest club. Their wealth, and that of tonight's opponents, has been gathered principally for one purpose. That is to be crowned as the Kings of Europe.

Marseilles almost achieved it last year, losing to Red Star Belgrade on penalties in the final, and would appear to be the most powerful of Rangers' rivals. Even if it was not the first fixture for both clubs, therefore, tonight's occasion promises to be heavy with significance.

The continuing severe doubts about McLeod's availability are especially regrettable. Comfortably the leading scorer with 33 goals in all competitions this season, he was unable to train yesterday and Smith is not prepared to

risk inflicting further damage on the calf of one of his most valuable assets.

Völler, the equally menacing German international and the leader of the Marseilles attack, is conversely likely to have recovered from his injury, the ribs he broke three weeks ago. Their recently installed manager, Raymond Goethals, is still concerned that his prize forward may not be sufficiently match-fit.

Völler scored at Ibrox in a pre-season game in July. Marseilles won 2-1 then, but they will scarcely recognise the stadium tonight when they walk out in front of a capacity crowd.

Smith insists that his side will treat the French champions much as they did Leeds. There is, as he pointed out, one obvious difference. "We don't have the problem of away goals hanging over us," he said. "That will be a help to the home team from now on."

The emphasis will not be on defence, which so firmly and effectively withstood the siege at Elland Road three weeks ago. It will instead lie on attack, where Hasteley, in the probable absence of his prolific partner, has as potentially decisive a part to play as he did in eliminating the English champions.

Tonight's match between Rangers and Marseilles will be transmitted live on the following ITV regions: Granada, Central, Tyne Tees, Scottish, Grampian, Border and Ulster. Highlights will be shown after News at Ten on Thames, TVS, Yorkshire, HTV, Anglia and Channel.



Warming up: Durrant, left, and Gough put the finishing touches to their training before the game yesterday

Smith weighs options over injured pair

By RODDY FORSYTH

IN CONTRAST to the excited air of anticipation at Ibrox yesterday, on the eve of Rangers' first appearance in the European champions league, Walter Smith, the manager, was calmness itself. Yet his strategy has been so disrupted by injuries to key players that it will be a long time before he will be able to settle on his squad for this evening's meeting with Marseilles.

McLeod, Britain's leading scorer with 32 goals for Rangers this season, remained doubtful to play, after aggravating a calf-muscle injury in training on Monday.

while Richard Gough, the captain, will decide this morning if he is capable of playing in what is liable to be a combative contest.

Smith's difficulties are compounded by the rule which restricts him to naming only three foreign players in his squad, because the men available could not be used as straight substitutes for either Gough or McLeod. "I am not trying to be unhelpful," Smith said at one stage in yesterday's press conference at Ibrox, when he was being pressed to give clues about his alternative strategy. "I simply do not know who we will use until I find out who is fit."

Gough's absence could be compensated for to some extent by the return of Stevens, who has come successfully through two games in the past seven days, and Rangers could deploy Brown and McPherson in central defence without feeling exposed, even against players such as Völler and Petit.

McLeod would be harder to replace, because of goal and because he has developed a sound understanding with Hasteley. He could be replaced by Mikhailichenko or Huistra, but Durrant may be a more likely partner for Hasteley. Smith has indicated

that he will rearrange the midfield by bringing in a youngster from the reserves if necessary.

At least the fear of conceding a goal at home is absent from Rangers' thoughts. "Now that the away goals don't count, I feel it's going to be a very open game with both teams ready to have a go," Gough said yesterday.

"Sure, they'll be physical, probably a lot more physical than most people expect, but we have guys who can handle themselves in that department and I don't think it will become overheat."

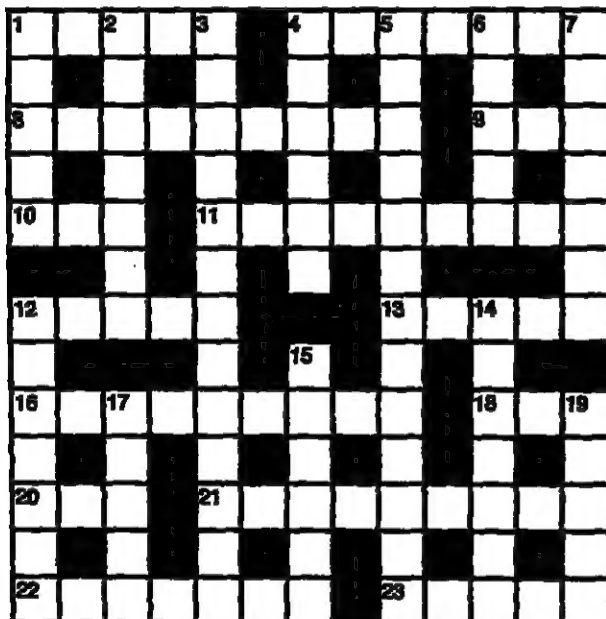
"What I do feel we will see is a game with a lot more

passing to feet, because they won't bombard us with high balls the way Leeds tried to do and we are a team which likes to play on the deck when circumstances permit. I really think this could be a right good match for the spectators."

Not everyone agrees some ITV companies in England will not screen tonight's game live. However, the Ibrox television gantry has been extended to cope with the broadcasters who will transmit the match live to ten European countries, while over 20 radio stations have also applied to cover the game.

More racing, page 45

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2954



ACROSS

- 1 Good book (5)
- 4 Racehorse parade (7)
- 8 Jumpy (9)
- 9 Age (3)
- 10 Drop off (3)
- 11 Prime specimen (9)
- 12 Further (5)
- 13 Whole number (5)
- 14 Wages officer (9)
- 15 Vigour (3)
- 16 Earth cloud (3)
- 21 Crafty (9)
- 22 Quandary (7)

DOWN

- 23 Composition (5)
- 1 Conductor's stick (5)
- 2 Width (7)
- 3 Horseman's (13)
- 4 Pictures (6)
- 5 Vanishing (13)
- 6 Victory (7)
- 7 Trickery (7)
- 12 Went against (7)
- 14 Jealous (7)
- 15 Disgrace mark (6)
- 17 Alpine call (5)
- 19 Unkempt (5)

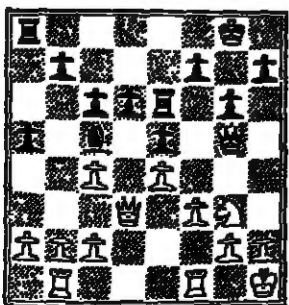
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2953

ACROSS: 1 Smooch 5 Sesame 8 Knot 9 Niggling 10 Agaric 12 Cape 15 Gratification 16 Reel 17 Target 19 Throat 21 Vote 22 Eynel 23 Speedy
DOWN: 2 Menagerie 3 Out 4 Handcuff 5 Sign 6 Solicitor 7 Man 11 Rattle off 13 Protected 14 Scanners 18 Et al 20 Hay 21 Voe

WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Delektat - Geller, Cappelle-Grande 1992. This appears to be a fairly harmless middle-game position and one would expect a long struggle to decide the result. Black's next, however, forced resignation. What was it?



Answers on page 44

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, write to: The Times Crossword Book, 1081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Demos on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

- PETROUS
a. Inclined to fear
b. Stony, hard
c. Sheer, steep, shelving
- TENSILE
a. Elastic
b. In a decimal system

- c. Gripping, prehensile
- VOLUSPA
a. An artificial language
b. A Viking poem
c. A natural sauna
- CHIGNON
a. Undergrowth, scrub
b. A bun
c. An onion stew

Answers on page 44

Wattana lines up White in his sights

By PHIL YATES

JAMES Wattana, of Thailand, will try to record his most important victory over Jimmy White when they meet in the quarter-finals of the £375,000 Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship at Preston Guildhall today.

Wattana, who required 21 minutes to convert a 7-1 overnight lead into a 9-1 win over Mike Hallett in the fifth round yesterday, has beaten White on 10 of their 14 professional meetings, including

successes in the recent Scottish and Belgian Masters. However, Wattana, the world No. 7, lost to White in the final of the British Open in March. In the semi-final of World Masters last year, when White went on to claim a first prize of £200,000, and in the last 16 of the 1990 UK championship.

Having captured the Belgian Masters title in Antwerp earlier this month, Wattana possesses a realistic chance of becoming the first overseas player to triumph in the 16-

year history of the UK championship.

He compiled a 136 total clearance, the highest break of the televised stages, in the first session against Hallett on Monday, and in all, included 10 runs over 40 in a convincing display.

Wattana, who surprisingly beat Steve Davis on the way to the semi-finals of the event last year, has dropped only five frames in three matches here this time. That impressive record did not dissuade him from dashing back over the

Pennines immediately after finishing off Hallett to put in a lengthy practice session at the Bradford snooker club he uses as a base.

While Wattana drove across the M62 on a high, Hallett travelled the long road back to his Grimsby home in a state of deep depression.

Hallett, who had defeated Dennis Taylor 9-5 in the previous round said: "It's one of the worst performances I've ever put in."

RESULTS: First round: J Wattana (Thailand) 10-5 M Hallett (England). 9-1 D Morgan (Wales) 10-5 J Ferguson (Ireland). 5-3.

Football fan's novel idea a winner

Andy Martin, a runner-up last year, offers plaudits for the winning author as another sports book of the year award is decided

counting on being able to write, "he was robbed" - as I was last year when my own book about surfing, *Walking on Water*, was a shortlisted runner-up to what I thought was a routine hack job about Muhammad Ali.

Biased? You bet. But then so, perhaps, was John Gaustard, manager of Sportspages, when he announced at the prize ceremony that "this year the judges got it absolutely right and have chosen the book that stands head and shoulders above the rest of the field".

Nick Hornby recalls that he had spent years on the terraces convinced that he had a good book in him. "The only problem was I couldn't think what to write about - and all along the answer was staring me in the face."

His autobiographical ac-

count of an irrational lifelong love affair conducted every Saturday afternoon in front of thousands of spectators has brought him fan mail from many similarly afflicted people saying: "You have written my story."

It is impossible for a West Ham supporter such as myself to imagine a more unpromising subject than the life of an Arsenal fan (unless perhaps a life of Muhammad Ali), which is partly why *Fever Pitch* works as literature, whose value and interest are not predetermined by subject, rather than as journalism.

As for the losers, there has been some question as to whether the lurid exposé contained in *Lords of the Rings*, by Viv Simonson and Andrew Jennings, subtitled "Power, Money and Drugs in the Modern Olympics"

can possibly be true. If the subtitles had been "Idealism, Virtue and Altruism" I would have been more sceptical.

Hornby, whose prize-money includes a £500 bet, would do well to consult Jamie Reid's *A Licence to Print Money: A Journey through the Gambling and Bookmaking World*, which explains how it comes about that William Hill can afford to sponsor these awards. Had Reid won he might have seen some of his own money again.

Sea, Ice and Rock shows off the mountaineering skills of its joint authors, Chris Bonington and Robin Knox-Johnston. Frank Keating's autobiography, *Half-Time Whistle*, shows that he read too much Dylan Thomas and Laurie Lee as a child and never quite recovered.

But sports writers must be getting something right. Against the economic run of play, Sportspages is opening a branch in Manchester. In the teeth of the recession, sports books are selling.

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